

Case Study

# COMPACT EVIDENCE STORAGE IN AN OFF-SITE WAREHOUSE

Volusia County Sheriff's Office Evidence Facility | Florida



Storage Solved®

## THE PROBLEM

### *Overcrowded Evidence Storage*

Law enforcement agencies need to store evidence for serious crimes for decades, usually until the convicted person has fulfilled his or her sentence. As a result, evidence accumulates from year to year, and this can lead to overcrowding in long-term evidence storage areas.

That was certainly the case at Volusia County Sheriff's Office Evidence Facility in Florida that typically takes in about 20,000 evidentiary items every year. The agency had been using static shelving in a 1930s-era prison for storing evidence for decades, but the facility was running out of space. In addition, the prison wasn't designed to hold evidence: the doorways were too narrow to accommodate bulky items and the aging structure was susceptible to occasional flooding.

Despite the building's shortfalls, the sheriff and his team had achieved CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) certification, which reflected their commitment to best practices in evidence storage. In order to keep their accreditation, and to keep serving the community efficiently, they needed to build a better space.

*The project planning team wanted to optimize space, plan for future growth, and streamline workflows.*





## THE PROBLEM

### *Secure Off-Site Evidence Storage*

When the sheriff's department got funding for a new building, the project team jumped at the chance to design and build a state-of-the-art evidence storage facility. As they investigated various options, they learned that a growing number of law enforcement agencies are building warehouses or leasing warehouse space for long-term evidence storage. Warehouses keep evidence organized, and they are usually built on less expensive real estate on the outskirts of town.

The problem is that warehouses can eventually fill up, too, if space isn't used wisely.

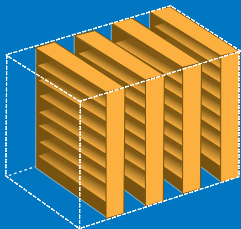


### **NEED TO FREE UP SPACE AT HQ?**

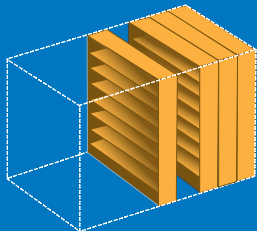
For agencies that are storing evidence at their headquarters or other high-value locations, moving evidence storage to an off-site facility frees up space for locker rooms, training areas, and other uses.

## MOBILE HIGH-BAY SHELVING: HOW IT WORKS

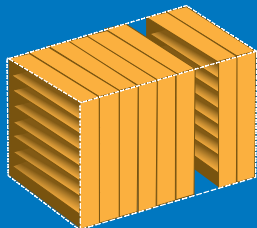
Eliminate wasted space overhead and in aisles with XTend® High-Bay Mobile Storage Systems.



Static shelving **USES VERTICAL SPACE EFFICIENTLY**. Shelf spacing can be adjusted based on box size to condense items.



Mobile shelving optimizes storage more efficiently. Shelving units are placed on rails and aisles are opened at the point of need, allowing more items to be stored in **LESS FLOOR SPACE**.



Additional mobile shelving units can be incorporated to **INCREASE STORAGE CAPACITY**. Optimizing space permits future growth and decreases long-term operating costs.

## *High-Bay Shelving Optimizes Space*

To make the most of off-site storage space, law enforcement agencies are starting to use tall, large-scale shelving systems that were originally designed to help university libraries store books in off-site facilities. These systems, called high-bay shelving systems, fully optimize vertical space in warehouses and other facilities with high ceilings. The shelving can even move on rails to eliminate wasted space in the aisles.



## THE SOLUTION



*Spacesaver assisted throughout four years of planning.*

### ***Off-Site Warehouse with XTend® Mobile High-Bay Shelving***

Because Spacesaver is the industry leader in high-bay shelving, the project planning team called on the local Spacesaver consultant for assistance. They worked together for the next four years to design a high-bay shelving system, along with a variety of other solutions, to help keep evidence organized and secure. When the time came to build out the facility, the nearby factory-trained Spacesaver crew installed the shelving and evidence lockers.



## THE SOLUTION

The new building is a model of best practices in evidence storage. Long-term evidence is stored on a pair of custom 40-foot-long by 20-foot-high XTend® High-Bay Mobile Storage Systems. These systems take advantage of the facility's vertical height, while also eliminating wasted aisle space, to gain about 40% more storage space than they had at their old site. The shelving is four feet deep to perfectly accommodate two two-foot banker's boxes, and the boxes can be accessed from either side to improve efficiency and convenience. Aisles are opened at the point of need by press-button, app, or remote control, and every aisle has Automated Guided Vehicle technology, which helps the mechanical order pickers operate with more precision and safety.

*The new building is a model of best practices in evidence storage.*



## TEMPORARY EVIDENCE STORAGE

When evidence is first brought into the new facility, it's bagged and placed in evidence lockers to await processing. Spacesaver's pass-through evidence lockers make evidence transfer quick and secure by providing access for law enforcement on one side of the wall and evidence management staff on the other.



### ***A Secure System***

The result is an end-to-end evidence storage and retrieval system that helps ensure that evidence is secure and justice is served. The fully optimized storage facility also has plenty of room to grow in the future, and the Sheriff's Office has maintained its CALEA accreditation.

*The Spacesaver shelving provides about 40% more storage capacity.*



## ***Connect with the Experts in Evidence Storage***

With 50 years in business, Spacesaver's law enforcement consultants understand the vital importance of proper evidence storage. Our in-house engineers and project managers team up with our network of local distributorships to serve hundreds of agencies, large and small, throughout the U.S. and Canada. We can help plan your project, install Spacesaver products, and provide ongoing service.

Contact us today to learn how we can help increase storage capacity and preserve evidence at your facility.

**800.492.3434 | [spacesaver.com](https://www.spacesaver.com)**



Spacesaver Corporation  
1450 Janesville Avenue  
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538-2798  
1-800-492-3434  
[www.spacesaver.com](https://www.spacesaver.com)