



## **DCH Technology Consulting**

Independent Consulting in Audiovisual, Control, and Smart Technology Integration

### The Anatomy of a Modern Law Enforcement Facility: Audiovisual Strategies for Mission-Ready Spaces

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## 1 The Mission Starts Here

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Modern law enforcement facilities serve a range of departmental and community needs. From municipal police stations and county sheriff's offices to substations and shared public safety headquarters, these spaces support daily operations, incident response, training, and public interaction.

This paper explores how audiovisual (AV) and control systems can support law enforcement environments by focusing on human-centered design, intentional integration, and practical functionality. While no two departments are alike, the spaces and strategies presented here reflect scalable tools that align with real-world needs and long-term operational goals.

## 2 Designing for Human Experience

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### 2.1 Room Layout and Visual Ergonomics

A well-designed law enforcement facility starts with understanding how people use each space. Our role as AV consultants is to help coordinate room layout and technology so information is easy to access, communication is clear, and everyday operation feels straightforward.

- Display size and placement account for viewing distances, seating layout, mounting height, and the information participants need to see
- We work early with architects to influence wall layouts, soffits, and sightlines

### 2.2 Audio Quality and Coverage

- Clear, even audio coverage is critical, especially in active, acoustically varied environments
- Audio system needs are evaluated alongside room size, acoustics, and intended use, including whether distributed speakers or voice lift are appropriate
- We collaborate with acousticians and architects to balance clarity with discretion

### 2.3 Control and User Simplicity

- Simple interfaces and preset scenes reduce friction and user error
- Systems are designed for everyday users, not AV pros

### 2.4 Video Conferencing and Equity

- Equitable conferencing requires intentional camera, mic, and display design
- Lighting must support both in-room visibility and video presence
- We coordinate closely with lighting designers to support both form and function

## 3 Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs)

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### 3.1 Purpose and Function

An Emergency Operations Center (EOC) supports coordination, information sharing, and decision-making during an incident. Whether it occupies a dedicated space or a room that also serves everyday functions, its AV systems should reflect how staff gather information, communicate with partner agencies, and shift between operating modes. Clear presentation and dependable operation are central to that planning.

- Display GIS maps, security feeds, and situational dashboards
- Host remote coordination with outside agencies
- Shift quickly between live monitoring, briefings, and public statements

## 3.2 Consultant Scope

- Video walls or large-format displays sized to the room
- Microphone and speaker systems tuned for clarity
- Input options for PCs, field laptops, or external sources
- Control systems with easy presets for different response modes

## 4 EOC Breakout Rooms

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### 4.1 Support for Coordination

Breakout rooms adjacent to an EOC support focused discussions while the main coordination effort continues. These spaces may accommodate tactical teams, legal consultations, or remote partner agencies. Their technology should support the privacy needs of each conversation while allowing appropriate coordination with the EOC.

- Wall displays for map review or camera feeds
- Audio design coordinated with room acoustics and the privacy needs of the space
- Video conferencing systems aligned with department IT and security requirements
- Shared control or content routing from the EOC

## 5 Roll Call Rooms

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### 5.1 Briefings and Operational Updates

Roll call rooms support shift briefings, operational updates, and the sharing of information officers need before beginning their assignments. AV systems should make that information easy to present, see, and hear, with controls suited to the pace of daily briefings.

- A primary display for visuals and announcements
- Loudspeakers and microphones tailored for short-form speech
- Preset modes for shift turnover
- Optional recording capability for shift playback
- Easy inputs for mobile devices and laptops

## 6 Conference and Multi-Use Rooms

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### 6.1 Flexible Spaces for Training and Collaboration

These rooms host everything from internal policy sessions to multi-agency planning. The AV must flex between presentation, hybrid engagement, and documentation.

- Displays or projection suited to presentation content and remote participant visibility
- Bring Your Own Meeting (BYOM) options that allow staff to host meetings from their laptops using the room's AV equipment

- Video conferencing systems with camera views and microphone coverage suited to the room
- Recording or streaming for future use

## 7 Immersive Simulator Spaces

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### 7.1 Scenario-Based Training Environments

Simulation rooms help officers build instinct and improve decision-making. The technology may come from a vendor, but the environment must be built around it.

- Surround displays or projection arrays designed for immersion
- Directional or surround audio tied to scenario logic
- Layout and lighting coordination to match vendor platform needs
- Interface integration between training PC and AV system

## 8 Interview Rooms

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### 8.1 Discreet Recording and Compliance

Interview room technology should support clear, dependable recording without distracting from the conversation. Planning must account for department procedures, recording requirements, and how staff confirm that the system is operating. Coordination with the department's responsible stakeholders helps align the room's technology with its intended use.

- Fixed, wide-angle cameras
- Ceiling or wall mics placed for clarity
- Secure recording interfaces (often outside the room)
- Visual indicators to confirm when recording is active

## 9 Fitness and Wellness Spaces

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### 9.1 Informal Environments with Simple AV

Fitness and wellness spaces benefit from straightforward AV that supports how officers use the room. Easy access to entertainment and audio, with simple controls, can meet everyday needs without adding unnecessary complexity.

- Wall-mounted TVs for cable or streaming
- Bluetooth audio playback for personal music
- Single-zone audio is usually enough

## 10 Facility-Wide Cable TV Systems

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### 10.1 Live News and Informational Awareness

Situational awareness starts with knowing what's happening. Live local news helps officers stay informed without having to search for it.

- Central cable or IPTV headend
- Displays in break areas, report writing rooms, and command spaces

- Optional local control based on zone

## 11 Conclusion

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Law enforcement facilities need technology that supports daily operations and remains dependable when demands increase. Thoughtful planning helps departments balance usability, operational needs, and long-term support without adding unnecessary complexity.

No matter the size or budget, our role is to help departments shape spaces that support daily operations, long-term resilience, and clear communication. When AV is planned with intention, it disappears, freeing people to focus on the task at hand.

If you're planning a new facility or reconsidering an existing space, let's talk about your department's priorities and how AV planning can support the people who work there.

## 12 About DCH Technology Consulting

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DCH Technology Consulting is an independent advisory firm specializing in AV, control, and smart technology integration. We help clients plan and implement systems that reinforce operational readiness, enhance communication, and fit seamlessly into the built environment.

Whether supporting civic leadership, law enforcement, emergency response, or collaborative public spaces, our mission is the same: make technology work for people, not the other way around.

### 12.1 Services Include:

- Audiovisual and control system consulting
- Smart building and scheduling integration
- BYOM and video conferencing system design
- Immersive training and simulator room design
- Facility-wide AV and media distribution planning
- Owner's representative services for technology projects

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