



BREWER PD IMPROVES EVIDENCE CAPTURE WITH THE TOUGHBOOK ARBITRATOR 360°.

**Enhancing Evidence Management
with IP Video Capabilities.**

CHALLENGE

The Brewer Police Department needed a video solution to capture critical evidence due to increased illegal activity.

SOLUTION

Brewer PD equipped its officers with the Toughbook® Arbitrator 360°™ in-car digital video system. This system provides officers support in the field during traffic stops and criminal investigations.

RESULT

With the Toughbook Arbitrator 360° in-car digital video system, Brewer PD officers now have a reliable evidence-capture solution to fight disputes and increase arrests and conviction rates.



Toughbook Arbitrator 360°





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In light of recent budget and resource cuts, agencies are struggling with limited funds for the purchase of new technology to fight crime and improve officer safety. As a result, agencies are considering alternative methods of acquiring funds to purchase and/or upgrade equipment. The Brewer (ME) Police Department was fortunate enough to obtain the needed funds in a different way.

The Brewer PD is a full-service police department with 21 sworn full-time officers assigned to a variety of jobs that include the patrol and detective divisions, School Resource Officers (SRO), Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Task Force, as well as administration. Due to an increase in illegal activity within the city, the agency required a technology solution that delivered proven value in its evidence-collection capabilities.

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Reducing Crimes and Increasing Arrests with Video Solution

Brewer PD has relied on in-car cameras since the mid-1990s, but each system it deployed eventually succumbed to the rigors of police use. The department needed a solution that could withstand the harsh Maine weather, as well as other variables that impact in-car equipment including dust and vibration.

As a result of an asset forfeiture-seizure account created by the city council in April 2004, the department had the funds to purchase new video systems. Therefore, the Brewer PD deployed Toughbook Arbitrator 360°™ in-car digital video systems to five of the department's patrol vehicles. Prior to this deployment, the department lacked evidence-capture capabilities to improve prosecution rates. This new solution provides officers with a reliable and rugged system that improves conviction rates, exonerates officers facing excessive force claims and delivers tamper-proof chain-of-custody evidence requirements.

“It's a great tool for liability purposes. If people make a complaint on an officer, we have everything on video so we can quickly and reliably see what really happened,” said Moffitt.

Evidence management is also an important feature for the department. The back-end system allows officers to access video evidence from anytime, anywhere, with consistent, automatic uploads.

“Being able to access the server from any computer terminal in the station is a huge advantage,” said Moffitt. “From an evidence management standpoint, it's tough to beat that. It's all done wirelessly, so that's a big deal for us.”

With the Toughbook Arbitrator 360°, the Brewer PD now has a reliable and rugged video system to capture critical evidence to combat criminal activity and resolve potential disputes, allowing its officers to further protect the citizens of the community.

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