

Big Needs and Tight Resources Make TAB FusionRMS for Property and Evidence the Perfect Choice for the Westland, MI Police Department

Efficiency and Flexibility

Sixteen miles west of downtown Detroit, Westland shares all the woes of Wayne County's depressed economy, which has seen tax and revenue-sharing funds decline as the automobile industry has contracted.

Funding for Westland's 125-strong police department is tight and reductions due to attrition require the department to be extremely resourceful in meeting community law enforcement needs. The department's top priority is keeping as many officers as possible out in the community.

Even with these constraints, Westland still has what it considers one of the best property and evidence functions in Michigan, if not the nation. According to Officer Roger Borst, the department's property and evidence room manager, that's largely due to the sophistication, flexibility and ease of use of TAB FusionRMS for Property and Evidence.

Flexibility may be TAB's biggest advantage. "Maybe 90 percent of property and evidence needs are the same for all police departments, but how you handle the 10 percent unique to your department can be critical to how efficiently and effectively your function operates," Borst says. "TAB FusionRMS handles the 90 percent with amazing ease and efficiency; but even better, it's so easy to configure that we've been able to customize it to meet our needs."

Innovative, Powerful, 100% Accurate

The Westland Police Department has long been one of Michigan's most efficient and innovative law enforcement agencies. One example was its 2001 adoption of a bar code system to track police vehicles and their contents. Westland used bar code tracking to treat vehicles as "containers" of officers, radios, guns and video tapes of incidents and arrests. The system proved so successful that Westland jumped at the chance to try TAB FusionRMS for Property and Evidence when it was released.



Officer Roger Borst

"We knew TAB, we knew how easy and powerful the systems are, and we knew how good its service and support are," says Officer Chris Clark, who was property and evidence room manager at the time. "We did some shopping around, but when we saw the TAB FusionRMS system in action, it was clearly the most aligned with the day-to-day needs of property and evidence room functions like ours. Turns out we were right."

“With TAB FusionRMS, you never have to worry about the integrity of your property room,” says Westland Officer Roger Borst.
“Being able to guarantee integrity is how I keep my job.”

Westland’s Day-to-Day Needs Include:

- Logging and storing property and evidence quickly and efficiently and with 100-percent accuracy. According to Officer Borst, TAB FusionRMS makes this a snap. “In a few simple steps, my job is done,” Borst says. “And when I need to retrieve property for a detective or for court, it only takes me about 30 seconds.”
- Chain of custody with digitized signatures for tracking control and auditability, and the ability to do automated monthly inventory samplings. “With TAB FusionRMS, you never have to worry about the integrity of your property room,” says Borst. “Being able to guarantee integrity is how I keep my job.”
- Hard and soft evidence compliance that manages both physical and electronic evidence with one system interface. “Being able to manage both physical and electronic evidence was very important to us when we decided to implement a new property and evidence system,” says Borst, “because we are going that route in the future.”
- Administrative flexibility and strong customer support. “You can make TAB FusionRMS do just about anything you want,” says Borst, who says other systems seem inflexible and “hardwired” according to the vendor’s view of the property and evidence function. “With a property and evidence system, service is very important. And when it comes to TAB FusionRMS, it’s the best. When I need help from TAB, it’s never more than a phone call away.”

Westland PD Quick Stats

TAB Customer:

Westland, MI, Police Department. The city has a population of 86,000 and a police force of 125 officers.

Challenge:

Tight budgets, limited staffing resources and growing police case loads required a property and evidence system that was automated, 100-percent accurate and required minimal human intervention.

Solution:

TAB FusionRMS for Property and Evidence, a bar code-based electronic property and evidence management system backed by the industry’s best service and support.

Results:

- With TAB’s intuitive and easy-to-use system, personnel can now log, store and track evidence in a matter of seconds.
- TAB FusionRMS tracks every item throughout chain of custody, so the integrity of the property and evidence room is ensured.
- TAB FusionRMS is highly flexible and easy to configure, so Westland is able to customize the system to meet its unique needs.
- Westland now has the ability to manage both physical and electronic evidence with one system interface



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