MEDINA COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT

Probate and Juvenile Divisions
225 E. Washington Street, 4th Floor, Medina, Ohio 44256

KEVIN W. DUNN
Judge

MEDIA RELEASE
October 30, 2026

Newly Awarded Funds Allow Improvements to Continue at Medina County Juvenile Detention Center

Medina County seeks to improve security for staff and juveniles thanks to the Capital Security Infrastructure Reimbursement Program through the Ohio Department of Youth Services

MEDINA – The Medina County Juvenile Detention Center will strengthen facility security and continue making important building upgrades thanks to approval of its $257,421.58 Capital Improvement Grant from the Ohio Department of Youth Services. Under the reimbursement program, the facility is provided with the financial resources necessary for security-based improvements, including a full upgrade of the security access control system.

"This project seeks to significantly enhance the safety, functionality, and reliability of our facility's security infrastructure," said Megan Millikin, Medina County Juvenile Detention Center Superintendent. "The MCJDC is dedicated to continuous improvement, responsible use of resources, and maintaining operations that protect staff, youth, and the Medina County community."

Project improvements will include security upgrades over all three resident units, the central control room, and every secure door, gate, and access point within the facility. Additionally, a new intercom communication system will be installed to better support internal communications, enabling staff to better coordinate operations and enhance day-to-day safety procedures.

The Juvenile Detention Center's security access control system has not been updated since 2012 while the facility's locks are original to the building, which opened in 1999. These upgrades are necessary to address aging security infrastructure and ensure the facility continues to meet the safety needs of juveniles, staff, and the community. Currently, if the security access control system falters, staff must rely on a manual key-and-walkie-talkie process to move juveniles and fellow staff throughout the facility. This method is inefficient and creates unnecessary delays in daily operations.

"The existing system has reached the end of its operational life," Millikin said. "Continued reliance on an outdated system will ultimately cost more than investing in a reliable, modern replacement."

Judge Kevin Dunn said the upgrades are necessary and is grateful that the Ohio Department of Youth Services understood the need for Medina County.

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“The safety of children in our custody is our top priority at the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center,” Judge Dunn said. “Our facility is a place of rehabilitation, where young people have the opportunity to learn from their mistakes, embrace structure, and work toward a better future. We must provide a secure and reliable environment to allow them to do so.”

The process of selecting a vendor, purchasing, upgrading, and installing the new equipment, along with training staff to ensure full operational readiness, will begin immediately. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

In addition, the MCJDC also received a $1,700 grant from Medina County Bluecoats for two handheld metal detectors. One detector will be assigned to the administrative area for screening visitors, while the second will enhance intake searches for newly detained youth. The Detention Center will be better equipped to prevent contraband introduction, protect staff members, and maintain a secure environment that supports the safety, accountability, and well-being of everyone.

Advancing security control and intercom systems will add to the list of approximately $1 million in improvements that have been made to the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center over the past year. Recent upgrades include repaving the parking lot, installing new concrete sidewalks, a new roof, replacing office carpeting, and adding a bullet-resistant window at the entrance.

“By investing in modern security systems and facility improvements, we can ensure that our juvenile detention center remains a secure place for rehabilitation,” said Judge Kevin Dunn. “Investing in security and safety is an investment in rehabilitation of our youth.”

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