

Chehalis Municipal Court Adds Metal Detector, Security Guard

By Kyle Spurr | Posted: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 7:35 am

The Chehalis Municipal Court installed a walk-through metal detector on Monday inside the main entrance to heighten security and protect against potential situations similar to the Grays Harbor attack in March that left a judge and deputy injured.

Court Administrator Rebecca Fox presented the new metal detector to the Chehalis City Council Monday night and said the court is now deciding where to permanently mount the metal detector in the entranceway.

The court also signed a contract with a security guard through Western Washington Merchant Patrol, the same company the Lewis County Courthouse uses to hire security guards.

The Chehalis Municipal Court was originally protected by a part-time security guard, who split her time between the jail and courthouse. The current security guard uses a metal-detecting wand.

Fox said the new walk-through metal detector cost nearly \$5,400 and she said the court would use drug seizure funds from the police department to cover the cost. The contracted security guard will cost \$100 a week for the four-hour shift.

Chehalis Municipal Court Judge Dale McBeth told the city council in May that the court was concerned with the possibility that someone could walk through the door with a weapon and do whatever they want.

McBeth was referencing Steven Kravetz, 34, who has been charged for attempted second-degree murder for stabbing and shooting Deputy Polly Davin and stabbing Superior Court Judge David Edwards in the Grays Harbor County Courthouse March 9.