

A nonprofit that supports law enforcement is relocating its Wichita headquarters, training center



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The U.S. Deputy Sheriff's Association conducts training with the Wichita Bomb Squad in December 2020 at its current building near K-15 and I-135. The nonprofit will expand its footprint and training areas with a move to a new building later this year at West Street and K-42.

UNITED STATES DEPUTY SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION



By [Shelby Kellerman](#) – Reporter, Wichita Business Journal
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The [U.S. Deputy Sheriff's Association](#), a national nonprofit that's based in Wichita and provides support for law enforcement nationwide, has plans to relocate its office headquarters this summer from south Wichita to southwest Wichita.

It won't be going far; the new building is only five miles away.

But besides a little more space for the office's six employees, executive director [David Hinners](#) says the move will allow the nonprofit to expand its training programs with more space for hand-to-hand combat and active shooter training.

"It matched almost everything we were looking for, so we kind of jumped on it a little quicker than we thought," Hinners said. "It will hopefully be about twice to three times as big as what we've got here now."

The nonprofit closes next week on the purchase of a 15,000 square-foot building at 2233 S. West Ct. St., which is near West Street and K-42, where TEC Systems Group is currently headquartered until it [relocates downtown later this spring](#).

[Kristin Stang](#) of InSite Real Estate Group will handle the transaction.

The U.S. Deputy Sheriff's Association got its start in 1995 in Texas to support sheriff's departments around the country. Since then, the organization has expanded to serve all law enforcement, including city, county, state and federal agencies.

Hinners and partner [Mike Willis](#) took over in 2013 and have relocated the nonprofit to Wichita.

Among its programs, USDSA provides free safety equipment and grants for underfunded agencies, as well as scholarships for children of law enforcement officers.

So far this year, Hinners said the organization has given free equipment to more than 50 different agencies.

"Our equipment program has gone insane," Hinners said. "And it's all word-of-mouth... Especially for a lot of agencies that are getting their budgets shrank, this is where we can help them out with some equipment."

The association's end-of-watch program sends a \$1,000 check to families of officers who have died in the line of duty. In 2020, the association expanded the definition to include Covid-19 deaths.

"Normally there's around 120 to 130 officers who perish in the line of duty every year," Hinners said. "We gave out over 300 of those last year."

Hinners and Willis travel to agencies across the country to provide officer survival training classes, as well as host them at the Wichita headquarters, so being close to the airport was important.

In 2019, USDSA hosted 40 training classes, but had to cancel almost all of them in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. But as the virus starts to wind down, Hinners says those classes are starting to get rescheduled.

And so portions of the new building off West Street will be renovated into matted areas for instinctive hand-to-hand combat classes. "Shoot houses" are constructed to resemble a small apartment or a school hallway, where officers can train with high-end airsoft or laser systems.

There will also be dedicated space for a handgun simulation machine, which at USDSA's current building at 2909 S. Spruce is set up in a conference room.

"It's right off of the main room where two of our employees work, so if we're back there using it, it kind of bothered them a little bit," Hinners said, laughing.

He said the nonprofit will move into the new building in June.

"It gives us a chance to expand everything and actually kind of grow with it," he said.