

Media Release

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NDCS Radio Chief Seizes Opportunity, Saves \$120K

By Drew Nystrom

(**LINCOLN**) – An old adage asks, "When opportunity knocks, do you answer the door?"

For Jerry Rotschafer, Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Radio Communications Division Chief and Community Corrections Center-Lincoln Maintenance Supervisor, the answer was a resounding, "Yes!," when his radio procurement efforts netted Nebraska taxpayers and the agency more than \$120,000 in savings.

The Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Strategic plan states, "Transformation comes through a combination of strategic thinking, strategic planning, and being prepared to take advantage of opportunities that arise."

For Rotschafer, this opportunity presented itself in the form of a one-time manufacturer-sale on radios, for only \$392.50 per unit, whose production was being discontinued in favor of a \$1,600 per unit replacement.

Rotschafer, a 20-year NDCS veteran with vast Protection Services experience, is acutely aware of the importance of communications within NDCS facilities.

Radios are a correctional employee's lifeline and an integral piece of staff safety equipment, Rotschafer said.



Jerry Rotschafer, Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Radio Communications Division Chief and Community Corrections Center-Lincoln Maintenance Supervisor, coordinates with fellow staff members via two-way radio at Community Corrections Center – Lincoln March 16, 2016 in Lincoln, Neb.

Scott Frakes, NDCS director, agreed when he included providing NDCS staff with reliable technology as a strategy to fulfill the One Team-One Vision leading goal which contributes to safe employees.

Frakes has stated in multiple forums, transforming corrections begins by engaging staff and emphasizing all employees should have a voice in shaping their work and improving the agency.

“Jerry [Rotschafer] brought this opportunity to everyone’s attention and worked through the [state purchasing] process to ensure we were able to take advantage of the one-time savings opportunity for these radios,” Robin Spindler, Deputy Director of Administrative Services said.

“The savings will play an important part of maintaining a balanced budget and the radios will help keep our employees safe,” she said.

For Rotschafer, while both benefits are important, the latter is more so than the former.

“These radios could save someone’s life someday,” he said.