

Gila County Utilizing Technology to be Greener and Safer

Video Conferencing technology has become a staple for Gila County in conducting its day-to-day business. It is now commonplace to convene training sessions and a wide variety of meetings without the necessity of participants from around the State and County traveling to a central location, all of which eliminates fuel, meal and lodging expenses. The video conferencing technology is also being used to conduct criminal arraignments without transporting inmates between the Courts and detention centers. This cuts down on transportation and labor costs and reduces the liability inherent in transporting inmates. This technology has also played an important role in small rural counties which can now share scarce but essential resources and expertise. At a time when gas prices and insurance premiums are soaring, Gila County is finding high quality, cost effective solutions in a constantly changing and challenging business environment.

Utilization of high definition multi-conferencing capabilities and collaboration is helping to drive success. It has become a philosophical thought process for County departments in understanding how and when to use this technology. With full content sharing, video conferencing participants can see presentations equally well at each end point. Traveling? No problem; just call into the conference and become part of the meeting via audio. A desktop with a high speed internet web cam and microphone provides yet another tool to participate in a web meeting or conference.

As other entities move into this burgeoning technology, we are experiencing more collaboration with multiple brands of video endpoints, including older standard definition. The future will require full compatibility with almost any type of video technology including Skype users (*now Microsoft Lync*). Now all invitees can join a conference by simply visiting Gila County's Video website.

Gila County is committed to adapting to the ongoing financial and economic challenges by demonstrating fiscal responsibility and accountability. These efforts are compatible with our obligation to reduce any negative impacts on the environment by reducing emissions and avoiding waste.

