

Every cup

The Postscript, by Carrie Classon

I have a tradition. Like most traditions, it didn't start out as a tradition. I bought a beautiful coffee cup to sit on the little coffee heater on my desk while I wrote in San Miguel. I think having a beautiful coffee cup is as important as having fresh flowers on my desk while I'm writing. If I'm going to sit in one place for hours at a time, I need nice things to look at while I'm doing it. If anyone asked me for advice on how to write a book, I wouldn't bother to talk to them about grammar or plot. I'd tell them they need a good place to write, because it's going to take a very long time. Sitting hunched up at the kitchen table where you have to pack up your stuff every time a meal is served is no good. It's important to have a place to do one's work—

especially if the work you're doing doesn't really look like work much of the time. It's important to have fresh flowers and a beautiful coffee cup filled with coffee that is kept at precisely the right temperature, even if it is neglected for 15 minutes at a time. So that is what I do. I find a nice cup, and I sit with it for several hours, seven days a week. But after I've used that cup for almost two months and it's time to go back to the U.S., I find I cannot bear to part with it. So I bring the cup home and I use it there. Then it comes time to return to Mexico, and of course I don't travel with a ceramic coffee cup. So when I get back to our apartment, I buy a lovely new cup. And again, I bond with it. And again, I bring it home. You probably now have an idea of how my cupboard

has filled with coffee cups. This is a situation that bothers my husband, Peter. Peter is very conscious of clutter. In my defense, I am staunchly anti-clutter as well—I just don't regard my collection of beautiful coffee cups as clutter. (Because, by now, it is a collection.) I also don't see a way out of my conundrum. “We could get rid of our other cups,” I suggested. “I like our other cups,” Peter said. “They are a nice size for company.” “We could use my Mexican cups when company comes.” Peter did not answer. I could tell he liked the idea of serving coffee at Christmas and on other occasions in the small, more practical matching cups we keep in an upper cupboard. They are nice cups, I admit. I just like my Mexico cups more.



CARRIE CLASSON

I remember when Password was just a game show

I used to think passwords were simple. Back in the dial-up days, I set mine to “password.” It felt clever, like I was outsmarting the entire internet with four syllables and zero imagination. Then the world got serious, and so did the little boxes that demand my digital soul every time I try to check email or order socks. My first upgrade was “Password1.” I added the capital letter and a number like a responsible adult. The website's strength meter glowed a cautious yellow, which I took as high praise. For a while I rotated through the classics: the dog's name plus my birth year, my favorite team plus an exclamation point, the street I grew up on with a 69 at the end because I was twelve forever. These were the golden years, when a password could still fit on a sticky note without requiring a microscope. Then the requirements arrived. Suddenly every site wanted eight characters minimum, one uppercase, one lowercase, one number, one special character, and preferably a blood sample. I started creating passwords that looked like they had been typed by a cat walking across a keyboard during a thunderstorm: “Tr0ub4dor&3!” or “P@ssw0rd!2024#NoReally.” I would stare at the confirmation screen, proud of my digital fortress, then immediately forget the entire string the moment I closed the tab. The real comedy begins when the sites decide my fortress isn't fortress-y enough. “Your password must not contain sequential numbers.” Okay, fine, I'll scramble them. “It cannot include any part of your username.” Fair. “It must be different from your previous

47 passwords.” At this point I am inventing new languages. I once spent twelve minutes trying to satisfy a bank's rules only to be told the password was “too similar to a previous one.” I wanted to reply that the previous one had been rejected for being “not complex enough,” but the help desk is never open for philosophical debate. Two-factor authentication was supposed to save us. Now I get a text code while standing in a dead zone, or an authenticator app that demands I open three other apps first. I have stood in grocery store parking lots typing six-digit codes with one thumb while the other holds a melting ice cream cone. The system times out. I start over. The ice cream wins. Password managers promised freedom. I dutifully installed one, let it generate a 28-character monstrosity of pure entropy, and felt briefly invincible. Then I forgot the master password. The recovery process involved security questions I had answered years earlier

while half-asleep: “What was the name of your first pet?” I had three first pets depending on which sibling you asked. “What is your mother's maiden name?” She has two, depending on the decade. I now keep a physical notebook labeled “Definitely Not Passwords” that contains, among other things, the exact sequence of keystrokes required to unlock my own life. The most ridiculous stage is the one we're in now. Some sites want a password that changes every 30 days, cannot reuse any previous version, must include a symbol that isn't on a standard keyboard, and preferably rhymes. Others accept “123456” with a cheerful shrug. I once reset a password only to be locked out because the confirmation email went to an address I no longer control. The support chat suggested I “try remembering harder.” I have reached the point where my passwords are longer than the documents I'm trying to protect. I type them with the solemnity of a monk copying manuscripts.



ROBERT ROE

The Voice of the Valley

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Who is Robert Boone?

Robert Boone graduated from Mason County High School in 2000, moved away for college and work, then moved back to Maysville to raise his family. Robert believes in a local government that works for the people, not the other way around. Robert knows Maysville needs bold leadership now and in the future.

Plans and Goals:

- Invest in our water utility infrastructure.
- Create sustainable housing through restoration of vacant properties, not demolition.
- Encourage resident engagement in local government through transparency, accessibility, and availability.
- Build a culture of a local government that works for the people, not the other way around.
- Vote “no” to tax increases or new tax proposals.
- Work to create safe and beautiful neighborhoods throughout our entire city.

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Paid for Robert Boone for Mayor

LEGALS

MASON COUNTY DETENTION CENTER
REQUEST FOR BIDS
SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEM

Bid Solicitation: Security Camera System Replacement and Installation
Location: Mason County Detention Center
Address: 702 US Hwy 68, Maysville, KY 41056

The Mason County Detention Center is soliciting competitive bids from qualified contractors/companies for the furnishing, installation, programming, configuration, testing, and implementation of a new security camera surveillance system.

The proposed system shall be a complete, fully functional system capable of meeting the following minimum specifications.

I. VIDEO STORAGE

The bidder shall provide sufficient hard-drive/server storage capacity to support the required number of cameras and specified retention periods without system performance issues, including lagging, freezing, or loss of recorded video.

Minimum video retention requirements shall be:

- Booking Area:** Minimum of **nine (9) months** of recorded video.
- All Other Areas:** Minimum of **ninety (90) days** of recorded video.

The storage system shall be appropriately sized for the proposed camera resolution, recording settings, frame rates, and continuous operation.

II. NUMBER AND TYPE OF CAMERAS

The new system shall include, at a minimum:

- 46 — 360-degree cameras (fisheye cameras)**
- 63 — Dome cameras**

Camera requirements:

- All cameras shall be a minimum of **4 megapixels**.
- All cameras shall be equipped with **night vision/infrared capability**.
- All outdoor cameras shall be appropriately **weather-resistant and rated for outdoor use**.
- Cameras shall be suitable for continuous operation in a detention-center environment.
- The proposed system shall provide reliable, high-quality video recording and playback.

Any proposed substitutions or alternatives to the specified camera types must be clearly identified in the bid and approved by the Mason County Detention Center prior to installation.

III. BOOKING AREA AUDIO

The system shall include **ceiling-mounted audio equipment for the booking area**.

The audio system shall be fully integrated with the video surveillance system and capable of recording and retrieving audio in conjunction with the applicable video recordings.

IV. MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

The bidder shall provide all necessary **video management and surveillance software** required to operate, monitor, record, review, search, and manage the camera system.

The system shall include the necessary software licenses and components required for full operation of the proposed system.

The bidder shall identify all licensing requirements, including any recurring subscription, renewal, or maintenance fees, as part of the bid.

V. INSTALLATION AND CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The successful contractor/company shall be responsible for the complete installation and implementation of the new camera system, including:

- Installation of all required data cabling for the new camera system.
- Mounting and installation of all cameras.
- Installation and configuration of all required servers, storage equipment, network equipment, and related hardware.
- Installation and setup of all required software on computers located in offices designated by the Mason County Detention Center.
- Programming of the complete camera system.
- Configuration of all cameras, recording equipment, software, and related components.
- Testing of the complete system to ensure proper operation.
- Integration and configuration of the video management system.
- Verification that all cameras are recording properly and that recorded video can be retrieved and reviewed.
- Final system setup and commissioning.

The contractor shall provide a complete, operational system upon completion of the project.

VI. EXISTING CAMERA SYSTEM

The Mason County Detention Center will be responsible for the de-installation and removal of the existing camera system.

The successful contractor shall coordinate with the Mason County Detention Center regarding the transition from the existing system to the new system.

VII. TRAINING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The successful contractor shall provide **training and technical support for a minimum of three (3) months following installation and system commissioning**.

Training shall include, at a minimum:

- Operation of the video management software.
- Live camera viewing.
- Playback and review of recorded video.
- Searching and locating recorded footage.
- Exporting/saving recorded video.
- Management of users and system permissions, as applicable.
- Basic system administration and troubleshooting.

The contractor shall identify the type and extent of technical support included during the three-month support period.

VIII. BID SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Each bidder shall provide a detailed proposal identifying:

- Manufacturer and model of all proposed cameras.
- Manufacturer and model of servers/storage equipment.
- Storage capacity and calculated video-retention capability.
- Video management software being proposed.
- Audio equipment proposed for the booking area.
- Data cabling specifications.
- Warranty information for all equipment and installation.
- Installation costs.
- Equipment costs.
- Software and licensing costs.
- Any recurring or annual fees.
- Training and technical support included with the bid.
- Estimated installation/implementation timeline.
- Any exclusions, assumptions, or additional costs.

Bidders are encouraged to provide sufficient technical information to allow the Mason County Detention Center to fully evaluate the proposed system.

IX. GENERAL REQUIREMENT

The successful bidder shall provide a complete and fully operational security camera system meeting or exceeding the minimum specifications contained in this Request for Bids.

All equipment, software, licenses, labor, cabling, installation, programming, configuration, testing, training, and support necessary to place the system into full operational service shall be clearly identified in the bid.

Any item necessary for the proper operation of the proposed system that is not specifically listed but is normally required for a complete installation shall be identified by the bidder in the proposal.

All bids shall be received at the Mason County Fiscal Court at 221 Stanley Reed Court Street, Maysville, KY 41056, until 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time, Monday, November 2, 2026, when bids will be opened and read publicly. All bids shall be placed in a sealed envelope with the project name “Detention Center — Camera Security System”. Bidders’ names and addresses should be clearly labeled as well. If packages are mailed, please ensure delivery will be prior to the deadline of 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time, Monday, November 2, 2026. The successful bidder will be awarded during the regular Fiscal Court meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

The Mason County Fiscal Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any technicality, and to select the proposal determined to be in the best interest of the Mason County Detention Center considering factors such as cost, quality, availability, and any other factors deemed necessary. All bids shall remain subject to acceptance for sixty (60) days after the time set for opening bids. The Mason County Fiscal Court is an “Equal Opportunity Employer,” and encourages minority owned businesses to respond.

Mason County Fiscal Court
Owen J. McNeill
Judge/Executive

Mason County Detention Center
702 US Hwy 68
Maysville, KY 41056
Phone: 606-564-3621, Ext. 155

Lisa Kern Yeary
Mason County Jailor

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