

The multimillion-dollar move

The Kansas City Fed moves to new headquarters, transfers the contents of its vault

When construction of the Kansas City Fed's new headquarters building was complete, it of course meant packing up what was in the old building and moving it to the new one—including the contents of the vault.

But relocating hundreds of millions of dollars, even just two miles down the road, is no easy feat. It took a year of planning as well as coordination among Fed staff with U.S. Secret Service agents and officers from several units of the Kansas City Police Department.

As part of its daily business activities, the Kansas City Fed distributes and receives millions of dollars to and from Federal Reserve customers (banks and credit unions). Currency from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and coins from the U.S. Mint are also kept in the Fed's vault before being moved into circulation.

Prior to the move, the cash inventory was reduced to the point that financial institutions were still able to get what they needed, while allowing Fed staff to move as little as possible.

The transfer of cash from one building to the other took nearly 12 hours, and the backbone of the move was intense security every step of the way. Here's how one vault was emptied and another was filled.



PHOTOS BY GARY BARBER



Want to take a look inside the region's largest cash vault? Visit the Kansas City Fed's new Money Museum. For more information, go to KansasCityFed.org.

Shortly after 11 p.m.: The first of two trips was completed. Fed staff unloaded the first batch of cash carts from the trucks into processing rooms. There, the carts were retrieved by automated guided vehicles and taken into the new vault.

About 11:30 p.m.: The two trucks were back at the old building and workers began rolling the final carts on board. The final loads also contained the Tommy gun used by Fed guards in the early 1900s and a gold bar that were on display in the old building as well as the nearly 450-piece Truman Coin Collection—all

5 p.m.: The move started at the new building with a security sweep of the two trucks that would transport the cash. Officers, aided by dogs, combed both the new and old buildings. Meanwhile, staff moved the contents from the vault at the old building to a security dock for staging before loading the trucks.

Just before 9 p.m.: The first truck pulled into the cash dock at the old building. The second truck arrived a few minutes later. Armed agents and officers patrolled the streets outside both buildings and monitored activity in the surrounding area.

9:14 p.m.: The first cash cart was pushed onto the truck. Each cart, which had multiple locks and two numbered seals, were verified with a master list prior to being loaded on the trucks.

By 10 p.m.: Both trucks were loaded with cash carts, which can weigh as much as 1,300 pounds each.

Around 10:30 p.m.: The two trucks left the old building for the new building. They were surrounded by a motorcade of police and Secret Service cars and motorcycles, and a helicopter hovering above. Meanwhile, Secret Service agents and Fed staff gathered in a conference room inside the new building. There, they spoke by radio with agents riding in the trucks and in the caravan, while also monitoring the trucks via GPS tracking linked to a TV.



to be showcased in the Money Museum in the visitors center of the new building.

12:21 a.m.: The last cart of cash was pushed onto the truck at the old building.

12:39 a.m.: The second and final trip from the old building to the new building was made. At the new headquarters, Fed staff used the automated material handling system to fill the vault with the carts.

4 a.m.: All of the cash and coins were secured inside the vault of the new building.

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