

Springfield Police to unveil new equipment Tuesday

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Springfield Police say two new vehicles and a license plate-reading system will allow officers to better respond to dangerous incidents, track down and apprehend criminals, and collect forensic evidence to help solve homicides and other crimes.

License Plate Recognition System

The automated license plate recognition system was installed on a current police model 2011 Ford Crown Victoria. In operation, it will be able to read stationary and moving license plates using three mounted cameras that feed the information to an onboard computer.

That computer connects to local, state, and national databases and has the capability to receive information from private companies.

The license plate system then compares the plate numbers against databases to determine if a vehicle or plate is stolen, or if the driver is wanted for a crime.

The information obtained by the plate reader can also be shared with regional and national agencies.

“By connecting regionally and nationally, we will receive information on vehicles we normally would not have received,” Springfield Police Chief Paul Williams said in a news release.

“This, in turn, could lead to the apprehension of wanted and dangerous subjects in our area. It allows us to search the database for investigative information, which will only enhance our efforts to solve a multitude of crimes.”

The reader system was awarded to the City of Springfield and Springfield Police Department by the Missouri Police Chiefs Association at no charge.