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EDITOR'S PICK

Smyrna Police Department to acquire new transporters

Ross Williams 16 hrs ago



Special to the MDJ-Courtesy of T3 Motion

A line of T3 patrollers is arranged in Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. The Atlanta Police department use the vehicles to patrol the airport's terminals.

Smyrna police will soon have some three-wheeled help moving through crowded events.

The city council approved the purchase of two T3 Motion Patroller personnel transporters using just over \$27,000 in forfeiture funds at its meeting Tuesday.

"I think they'll be an excellent addition and provide us with some more resources for handling situations where crowds may amass, moving through the crowds a little bit easier and quicker than having somebody on foot," said Smyrna Police Major Joseph Bennett.

The devices look like a cross between a tricycle and Robocop and operate similarly to a Segway, but the vehicles are more powerful than just-for-fun gadgets.

They feature full front and rear suspension and an adjustable LED headlight for night patrols. They also have flashing lights and sirens just like a police car.

Documents on T3's website say the vehicles can easily climb a standard nine-inch curb and perform a full U-turn inside a six-foot elevator.

Bennett said the vehicles will see a lot of use, especially in areas where officers will have to navigate through throngs of people, such as the crowds expected to come when the Atlanta Braves open their new stadium, SunTrust Park, right on the edge of Smyrna's city limits.

"City events, city road races, we have a portion of the Silver Comet Trail, we've got the impending opening of the stadium, there may be a use there for it," he said. "Pretty much 365 days a year."



The vehicles will have a top speed of 16 miles per hour.

Bennett said one of the reasons the department went with the T3s is their battery life.

"The only competitor was Segway," he said. "The T3s really were a better value. The Segways cost more and didn't offer some of the same equipment and battery life that the T3s offer."

Bennett said the machines will be able to travel 45 miles on a single charge, which he said will be sufficient to last the duration of an officer's 12-hour shift.

He said the department expects to receive the two new vehicles in four to six weeks.

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