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## APSU police add two new 'chariots'

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*The Leaf-Chronicle*

Security patrols on Austin Peay State University's campus have a new tool — the chariot.

The APSU Police Department added two three-wheeled vehicles made by T3 Motion a few months ago to increase their visibility on campus and to cut fuel expenses. T3 Motion is a leading manufacturer of electric vehicles, including the Upright Police Vehicle, nicknamed "the Chariot."

"These vehicles are perfect in many ways for a university setting," said APSU Assistant Chief of Police Charles Struckel.

Each Chariot carries a price tag of \$9,000.

Struckel said each vehicle will pay for itself within two years in fuel savings "and is significantly cheaper to operate than having regular vehicle use."

Zero gas emissions is an environmental plus because the oversized scooters are powered by batteries.

With a maximum speed of 25 mph, the Chariots give campus police much more flexibility.

"Officers can take these up close to a building during patrols," Struckel said.

"They can look in windows and see more, and they can virtually turn on a dime."

Sgt. Elizabeth Genthner said she was excited at the prospect of adding the Chariots to the campus fleet.

"I had seen them in the airport at Atlanta. They are good to move through crowds and fast," Genthner said.

She said the response from students on campus has been positive.

"These make us much more approachable, and we're more visible to students than in a car," Genthner said.

"These vehicles fit the ideology for community policing efforts," Struckel added.

The APSU Police Department consists of 14 officers; six full-time, state-certified security guards; three dispatchers; a technical supervisor; and a department secretary.

Chariots cannot be used to transport suspects. In those situations the Chariot officer must call for a cruiser pick-up.

The vehicles are equipped with emergency lights and a siren with a LED lighted panel. Each Chariot weighs about 300 pounds.

Struckel said the Chariots are impervious to inclement weather and officers can suit up in rain gear as in a traffic control situation.

