

E-Tickets speed up traffic stops:

Fort Wayne Police will receive devices to raise efficiency and accuracy.

*By Aaron Organ
The News-Sentinel, Fort Wayne, Ind.
June 17, 2010*

E-Tickets are on their way to Fort Wayne traffic offenders as part of Allen County's transition to the modern age.

Fort Wayne Police Chief Rusty York confirmed Wednesday that 86 new e-Ticket producers will soon be in the hands of his patrol officers, making traffic stops exponentially swifter and more efficient. The devices are part of Allen County's transition to the Odyssey system, which puts all Allen County court records online, not only streamlining the bogged-down paper trail but also making it more accessible.

E-Ticket devices have been in use by Indiana State Police for three years, and by New Haven, Monroeville and Woodburn police and the Allen County Sheriff's Department, but the Fort Wayne Police Department has been waiting for the Allen County court system to adopt Odyssey. Well ahead of schedule, the county's Odyssey software will debut next month, and with it will come the e-Ticket units for Fort Wayne officers.

York said the devices, which were paid for by the state and will require no taxpayer dollars, have already been ordered through a vendor, and the department is simply waiting on their delivery. Then it will be a matter of installing the hardware and waiting for Odyssey to go live, York said, adding his e-Ticket trainers are already trained on the system.

The e-Ticket system will drastically speed up not only traffic stops, but also crash reports, for officers. Among its features, the technology comes with a scanner that, when an officer needs

to write a ticket or is putting together a crash report, they can simply scan the driver's license and registration through, and the software will electronically and automatically populate the fields of either the ticket or the crash report. That's the cool factor to the more widely known feature that replaces the conventional paper tickets that the officers write by utilizing a small printer on-board that will print out the copy to the offender. Officers can also input comments, charges or court dates.

The state police have said the e-Ticket process reduces a stop for 10-15 minutes to 2-5 minutes.

It not only speeds up the on-scene processes for patrol officers, York says, the e-Ticket system speeds up the entire operation as the ticket or report is inputted online immediately, and can be accessed by the needed department with the click of a mouse rather than a shuffle through a filing cabinet.

"This information now, instead of having to take this information through records, the prosecutor's office, the court system, now it's all handled with the software, so it goes where it needs to go electronically," said York. "It's also recorded at the state level more effectively, as well. The system makes this really convenient and efficient for officers."

York said apart for the speed factor that e-Ticket and its Odyssey cousin offer, each promises to save the department -- and taxpayers -- money. The Allen County Prosecutor's Office has told York that the system will help lessen the calls for subpoenas it requires of the police department to help serve, taking each on a case-by-case basis, York said. That means fewer calls for service through that office.