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## Amsterdam Police Department implements new storage system

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The Amsterdam Police Department just got smart about their equipment storage. This week, drug seizure money paid for a smart rail gun rack and locker system that regulates the way officers take out and return their equipment.

"It serves a lot of purposes," said Amsterdam Police Chief Thomas Brownell. "It keeps everything accountable." Every officer in the department will be programmed into the system, which is accessed through fingerprint technology. When the officer's fingerprint is scanned, the computer displays a list of available equipment. "They only have access to what they're qualified for," said Brownell.

The APD's equipment, from the Tasers to the Alco-Sensors to the rifles and the pistols, will have identity chips installed as part of the system. When an officer returns a piece of equipment at the end of their shift, it must match up with the identity chip of the item that was logged out. Everything carried by the officers will be locked away in the same place.

"From under an administrative point of view, we can see who's taking out what equipment and who should be taking out what equipment," said Brownell.

The preexisting equipment storage system needed improvements, the chief said, pointing to a file cabinet in the corner of the dispatch office. The program, called Biometric Access Control Systems, is relatively new, and Brownell recently looked into the system that was purchased by the Troy Police Department.

"We'd been looking for a method of secure storage of our equipment, and Troy was one of the first departments in the area to get it," said Conroy.

Administrators will have authority over the system, including emergency access for quick unlock of lockers and smart rail.

Conroy hopes to have all equipment and officers integrated into the system by mid-November.

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Amsterdam Police Sgt. Kurt Conroy, right, looks on as officer Gregory Hafensteiner is scanned into the department's new equipment storage system.