



Agenda Item: 9.C  
Date of Meeting: April 13, 2026  
Department: Police

## STAFF REPORT

To: City Council  
From: Nate Derr  
Subject: **Purchase of 3D Forensic Crime Scene Scanner**  
Prepared On: March 24, 2026  
Attachments: Faro Quote  
Leica Quote  
Artec Ray II Quote

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### Background/History:

The Police Department currently relies on traditional measurements, photographs, and diagramming techniques when documenting crime scenes and traffic collisions. While effective, these methods are time-consuming and can require extended roadway closures during serious collisions or major incidents.

Modern 3D forensic laser scanners create highly accurate digital models of a scene by capturing millions of measurement points using laser technology. The resulting digital reconstruction allows investigators to examine and measure the scene after it has been cleared, preserving evidence and scene geometry with a high degree of accuracy.

These systems are widely used by major law enforcement agencies, including California Highway Patrol Major Accident Investigation Teams (MAIT/MET), and have become an industry standard for documenting serious collisions and complex crime scenes. This would be a regionally used device as no Department in the Eastern Sierra current has a scanner available.

In addition to law enforcement use, the scanner can also support other City departments.

Potential uses include:

- Surveying intersections and roadway grades
- Documenting infrastructure conditions
- Supporting Public Works engineering and planning projects
- Mapping accident-prone locations for safety improvements

This cross-departmental capability increases the overall value of the investment.

### Analysis/Discussion:

The use of three-dimensional forensic laser scanning technology has become increasingly common among law enforcement agencies responsible for investigating serious traffic collisions and complex crime scenes. These systems allow investigators to capture highly accurate spatial data using laser measurements, creating a permanent digital reconstruction of the scene that can be examined and measured long after the scene has been cleared.

Currently, officers rely primarily on traditional methods of scene documentation, including photographs, manual measurements, and hand-drawn diagrams. While these methods remain valuable investigative tools, they can be time-consuming and often require investigators to remain on scene for extended periods of time to ensure that all measurements and evidence locations are properly documented.

For major traffic collisions, extended documentation times can result in prolonged roadway closures, creating impacts to traffic flow, emergency response routes, and public safety. By utilizing a 3D laser scanning system, investigators can capture millions of measurements in a matter of minutes, significantly reducing the amount of time required to document a scene. Once the digital scan is complete, the roadway can be reopened while investigators continue their analysis later using the captured data.

This technology is widely used by major investigative agencies, including the California Highway Patrol Major Accident Investigation Teams (MAIT/MET), as well as regional crash reconstruction teams and forensic units across the country. The ability to produce highly accurate digital reconstructions improves the quality of collision reconstruction analysis and provides clear visual documentation that can be presented in court proceedings.

In addition to collision investigations, the scanner can be used to document serious crime scenes where precise measurements and spatial relationships are critical. The resulting digital models allow investigators to revisit the scene virtually, take additional measurements, and produce detailed diagrams and visualizations without needing to return to the original location.

Another benefit of the technology is its ability to support interdepartmental collaboration. The data collected by these systems can also be used by other City departments, including Public Works, for surveying intersections, analyzing roadway geometry, documenting infrastructure conditions, and supporting engineering projects. This multi-departmental application increases the overall value of the investment and aligns with the City's strategic goal of maximizing the utility of municipal technology investments.

The purchase of a forensic laser scanner was previously identified during the City's strategic planning process for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 and is consistent with Strategic Plan Goal 4.6, which focuses on implementing modern technology to improve operational efficiency and service delivery. Adoption of this technology will allow the Police Department to modernize investigative capabilities, improve documentation accuracy, enhance officer safety, and reduce impacts to the public during major incidents.

Overall, the implementation of this system represents a forward-looking investment that supports evidence-based investigations, improves operational efficiency, and aligns with current best practices in public safety agencies.

### Impacts to Council Goals and Strategic Planning Priorities:

This purchase directly supports Strategic Plan Goal 4.6, which focuses on implementing modern technology and tools that improve operational effectiveness, investigative capability, and service delivery.

This project was identified and pre-approved during the FY 2025/2026 strategic planning process as a priority investment to enhance investigative capabilities and improve operational efficiency.

Budget Impacts:

Funding for the purchase of the 3D forensic laser scanning system is already included in the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Capital Equipment budget for the Police Department. As a result, approval of this purchase will not require any additional appropriation or budget amendment.

In accordance with the City's purchasing policy, the Police Department obtained three quotes for comparable forensic laser scanning systems:

| <b>Vendor Quote</b> | <b>Amount</b> |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Faro                | \$69,284.72   |
| Leica Geosystems    | \$100,348.42  |
| Indicate Artec-ray  | \$103,800.00  |

Faro Technologies represents the lowest responsive quote and meets the operational requirements for forensic scene documentation.

The total cost of \$69,284.72 will be funded through the Police Department Capital Equipment budget line for FY 2025/2026, which was previously approved as part of the City's adopted budget.

This includes a 3 year Zone 3 expert (\$4,994.00) and 3 year Scene (\$5,354.00) subscription.

Because the project was identified and approved during the City's strategic planning process, the purchase aligns with planned capital investments and supports Strategic Plan Goal 4.6, which emphasizes the adoption of modern technology to improve operational efficiency and investigative capabilities.

Legal Review:

City Attorney Pucci has reviewed this item and finds it complies with the law.

Recommended Action:

City Council authorization to purchase a 3D forensic laser scanner system from FARO Technologies Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$70,000.00.

Approved By: Ethan Aukee 3/26/2026

Approved By: Robin Picken 4/7/2026

Approved By: Pam Foster 4/8/26

Approved By: