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New 3-wheeled police vehicle is enviromentally friendly

Emanuel Parker Staff Writer

• Photo Gallery: Monrovia Police T3 vehicle MONROVIA - The law has chased bad guys on foot, horseback, with wagons, cars, boats, airplanes and helicopters - now they're going after them on the T3.

And judging from public reaction, they will catch them because the sight of an officer on a T3, which resembles a horseless Roman chariot, induces smiles and laughter and renders people defenseless.

"People don't expect it. It catches them off guard," said Monrovia police Sgt. Nels Ortlund, the T3's operator.

"That's so cool," said a woman who saw the T3 at Library Park. "I love it."

Rowena Balyut, owner of Jenni B fashions on Lime Avenue, said, "I wonder if private citizens can buy them?"

The **Monrovia Police Department** has purchased one of the \$8,000, three-wheel machines from T3Motion of Irvine, said Monrovia police Capt. Jim Hunt, and may purchase one more in the future.

Initial plans call for using it Friday nights only to patrol Monrovia's street fair on Myrtle Avenue, which can attract up to 10,000 visitors.

"We'll use them at special events," he said, "anywhere there are a lot of people where they make it easier to go through a crowd."

Hunt said a T3 is more mobile than an officer on foot.

"You get there fast and you're eight inches off the ground. When you patrol a parking lot you can see over the cars, and it can go up on sidewalks, down alleys and foot paths and do a 360-degree turn in place."

It has a top speed of 25 mph, but a key lets the operator limit top speed to 10 mph. It will carry a payload of up to 400 pounds.

The racy-looking T3 is also a good public relations tool, Hunt said.

"It's a conversation piece and makes it easy for officers to talk to the public," he said.

"It weighs 280 pounds and has spaces to carry equipment and a backpack and it has a glove box," Ortlund said. "It's really stable."

The T3 has a headlight, a siren, instrument panel, disc brakes, a mini-light bar, is non-polluting and silent.

USC has an old T3, he said; Burbank police have ordered one and Anaheim is trying one out around Disneyland.

Monrovia police Chief Roger Johnson attended a chief's conference six months ago and saw a T3, Hunt said.

emanuel.parker@sgvn.com

(626) 578-6300, Ext. 4475

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