

City Police Using Latest In Communications

By MARTHA MAHAN

FARMINGTON The City of Farmington's police department enters 1972 with some of the latest in electronic equipment and newly garbed scout cars.

Most noticeable to the public is the new bright blue band circling the white police cars and replacement of the former black and gold insignia with a new door emblem.

The new emblem features a picture of a tree used by the city's Beautification Committee to commemorate Farmington's incorporation as a village in 1867. An eagle

fronts an American flag. The words: "Public Safety, Protect and Serve" ring overall.

MOST APPRECIATED by the lawmen is the new electronic apparatus — a radio console within headquarters and new transmission and receiving equipment in scout cars.

The console is described as the "latest stage of the art" by Public Safety Director Robert Deadman. Both the console and the new car radio equipment "should serve us well for a lot of years," he said.

The console connects the dispatcher with police cars, can set up an inter-communication throughout City Hall, alerts the dispatcher to burglar alarms triggered at any of almost a dozen high risk business places, keeps tabs on the status of all vehicles at all times, and records the time of incoming calls and the time the call is answered.

It even can set up an alert for police and firemen in their homes. A beep tone summons the officer to receive and answer calls from the station in his home. All off-duty officers could be summoned at one time in event of an emergency and power stays on.

The dispatcher can talk with more than one radio

frequency simultaneously — for example with the regular police channel and the police and local government.

TWO TAPES record all messages coming into the station both from police cars and outside and one is

equipped for their playback. Advantages, Deadman said, are "accurate playback of what occurred in the past and

immediate playback to the dispatcher if the person calling in is cut off and his message was not clear."

The big edge in the police car radio equipment comes from officers "being able to hear what's going on around them," the chief explained.

Cars can both message and receive transmissions on four channels: car to car and car to station on regular city and township police channel; the Farmington investigative channel; Livonia police; and other departments linked with the Oakland County sheriff's department channel — Novi, Wixom, Walled Lake, Milford and others.

The regular Farmington channel has priority, and the receiver switches automatically to take its messages no matter where the selector is set.

The most obvious advantage is police ability to direct a search, say for a speeding car, throughout the area.

The \$42,000 cost for the new electronic equipment was partially met by a \$28,000 federal grant with the city picking up the rest of the tab.

It took approximately 14 months of preliminary work to qualify for the state - distributed federal money, Deadman said, and Farmington is probably the only city of its size in the state able to qualify under the guidelines. "We're one of the smallest cities in Michigan so well equipped," he said.

Remind Them

Parents should regularly remind small children that putting foreign objects, such as pins, pencils and paper clips, into the ear canal can result in a ruptured eardrum and a serious hearing loss, according to experts.

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MRS. DOROTHY UGRIN records a call on the police log while keeping an ear open for another call. The new Motorola communications console has been installed in the City of Farmington Public Safety Department with financial assistance of a federal safety grant. (Evert photo)

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CALL RECEIVED — Dispatcher Joseph Schornack and Sgt. Richard Miller (right) respond as an emergency call comes over the console installed recently by Motorola for the City of Farmington Public Safety Department. (Fran Evert photo)

Auditor Is Reappointed

FARMINGTON The Farmington Board of Education has re-appointed the firm of Plante and Moran to conduct the district's 1971-72 audit.

Estimated cost will be \$9,200. Business Administrator William Prisk reported, a \$300 increase over the 1970-71 audit fee.

However, auditing last year's books cost the district \$400 more than was anticipated because of new state requirements for the reporting on federal projects and on investments of the district, additional time required to audit the North Farmington High School student activity fund and to audit the district's stock items.

The \$400 will be recoverable from funds of the federal projects, Prisk said.

Plante and Moran audit for 21 school districts, Prisk said, and Farmington's cost is the lowest of the 21 both on a pro-rata, per student basis and per \$1,000 of general fund basis.

The firm credits the low Farmington cost to the way the business office is operated and the records that are kept, he said.

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