

# LEWISTON POLICE DEPT. GRANT (cont.)

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Center Street, I can do messages, or the radar, or speeds, but go plug a USB in and it'll give me a download of traffic activity – all traffic data.”

The LPD was able to purchase a FARO 3-D laser scanner, which Previte said will improve efficiency and investigative capabilities at crime scenes and major accidents.

“Instead of measuring distances, we can put it up in here and it will laser scan the whole room,” he said. “We do crime scenes. We can do it inside, outside for accidents, traffic accidents, to recreate accidents. It'll generate like a whole scenario. It'll generate the crash where it almost turns into like an animation where you can watch it.”

Capt. Mike Salada explained, “Accident scenes, crime scenes, back in the day with action scenes, we'd stretch one of those – actually, about 10 of those (tape measures). And about eight hours to do a full scene, at least. With this, it does everything the tape measure would do and more. So, we set this up. Take a scan. It takes about three minutes to do a full 3-D scan. It's taken about 13 feet out. And then we would move it – the 13 feet – do another scan, and just keep doing it. It takes about three minutes per scan.

“Once we feel that we've collected the scans that we need to – and we have a little tablet that we can follow along to make sure that it's scanning everything – we can take all that data back, load it into the computer, and it will do all our measurements. And then, ultimately, we'll be able to recreate that scene. So, we can do actual visual animations based on the car. We know the endpoint of the car. Now this takes all that calculation data, and we can start and show how the vehicles collided, basically.”

“So, we were taking an eight-hour on-scene process and then back to probably another three-day process of sketching the scene with real measurements, and turning it into probably just a one-day project. We scan the scene. It takes an hour. And then come back. We can load all that data and analyze it all within the same day.”

“You can imagine how much overtime that saves us. And calling people in. It's huge,” Previte said.

On May 13, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced \$127 million to police departments and sheriffs' offices outside of New York City for new technology and equipment to prevent and solve crimes and improve public safety. The governor



Pictured is a rendering of what the new LPD observation tower will look like when in use at community events. (Courtesy of the Lewiston Police Department)



Patrol cars are being equipped with both license plate readers and rear-seat cameras.

secured additional funding in the fiscal year 2025 enacted budget to fund applications made by 378 law enforcement agencies that responded to the state's application for funding last fall.

Hochul said, “Public safety is my top priority, and we are continuing to make record investments in law enforcement so they have the resources they need to protect our communities. By investing in the latest technology and equipment, we're responding to the requests of law enforcement agencies as they look to safeguard the future of our state.”

While most of the new equipment has arrived at the LPD office and garage, the observation tower will likely debut in 2025.

Previte has more safety upgrades in mind. In particular, he wants to have another fixed camera installed on Center Street:

“We now have two. I want to make that three.”

He added, “That, obviously, helps us with anything that happens on Center Street. It's our busiest street, with all the businesses and everything. We've had break-ins and things that have happened before, where they've been instrumental, just a number of different times that we've used them already.”

# Firefighters Association to bring 152nd convention to Niagara Falls in August

The Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY) will bring its 152nd annual convention to Niagara Falls from Aug. 7-11 at the Sheraton and the Niagara Falls Convention Center. More than 1,000 people, including volunteer firefighters and their guests from across New York, vendors and visiting dignitaries, will attend the convention and related events.

The convention is being held in Niagara Falls for the 10th time, and this is 13th time Niagara County has hosted this event. A total of 41 FASNY annual conventions have been held in Western New York since the association was founded in 1872.

The hundreds of visitors to Niagara Falls for the FASNY convention are expected to generate approximately \$836,521 in economic activity in the region that week. This includes nearly 1,700 hotel stay nights, meals, social activities and other travel-related expenditures.

Activities for the week will begin with the annual golf

tournament at Seneca Hickory Stick golf course in Lewiston. Convention ceremonies and proceedings will be held at the Niagara Falls Convention Center, including FASNY's annual Heroes awards, fire police training, a block party, and the keynote speaker, Paul Combs. Additional training will include youth training at the Wheatfield Training Facility and a live fire, hands-on training at the Sanborn Fire Co.

Niagara County hosted the inaugural FASNY Youth Day in 2009 as part of the 137th convention, and hosted the event again last year as part of the 151st convention.

“We are thrilled to be bringing the FASNY convention back to Niagara Falls again for 2024, following the tremendous success of our 2023 event here,” FASNY President Edward Tase Jr. said.

Founded in 1872, FASNY represents the interests of the approximately 80,000 volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel in New York. For more information, visit [www.fasny.com](http://www.fasny.com).

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