

YOLO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

Re: Yolo County Sheriff's Department Receives New Inmate Transport Vehicle Date: March 20, 2008
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Contact: Michele Wallace, Public Information Officer (530) 406-5163

The Yolo County Sheriff's Department received a new Braun-Northwest, 34 passenger inmate transport vehicle. This state-of-the-art vehicle is equipped with audio and video equipment, emergency response equipment, and radio communications technology. The passenger compartment is formatted to allow options for inmate separation with advanced safety components. The design consists of a cab and chassis with a boxed passenger compartment.

The cost for the vehicle including the necessary upgrades was \$215,000. In years to come, when the vehicle wears out, only the cab portion will need to be replaced. The boxed design and future county savings was a large consideration when selecting the Braun-Northwest vehicle.

The Board of Supervisors approved the purchase last year in light of new emissions laws. The Sheriff Department's current bus will become non-compliant with California laws later this year.

The Sheriff's Transportation Section has been using a 1993, 32 passenger bus to transport an average of 40-70 inmates per day between the Detention Center and Court House for their appearance before the court. The bus is also used to transport inmates between the Deuel Vocational Institute (DVI) in Tracy and the Yolo County Sheriff's Detention Center. In addition, when the patrol section is involved in a mass arrest the vehicle can be used to take a group of suspects from the scene of an incident to the jail facility for booking.

Sheriff Prieto stated, "Reliable transportation is important to the department and to the court system. If inmates can't get to court, it has a impact on the system. Each year we transport approximately 14,000 inmates between the Detention Center and either court or the DVI in Tracy. The bus is used almost daily, putting regular wear on the vehicle."