

New Technology on 2014 Ford Police Interceptor to Protect Police

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Ford is offering a new piece of technology on its 2014 Ford Police Interceptor sedan and utility vehicles designed to protect law enforcement officials.

The new surveillance mode technology uses Ford's already existent drive-assistant technology to help protect police officers. Using a combination of Ford's backup camera, cross-traffic detection sensors, and reverse park assist, the car can sound a chime alerting the officer, rollup the driver's side window, and lock the doors if it detects a person approaching the vehicle from a blind spot.

What is critical about the new technology is that it uses already existing technology offered in the sedan and utility police vehicles, which allows police precincts and municipalities a low cost of introduction into their own models.

This is a critical piece of technology for law enforcement officials, especially during nighttime operations. The technology can be activated while in the vehicle and it is parked and continually scans the area to the rear of the vehicle. In heavily trafficked urban areas, the technology can be switched off as to not constantly go off and distract the officer. The surveillance mode technology is designed as another tool for the officers, not a replacement for vigilance.

The technology is the brainchild of Randy Freiburger, Ford police and ambulance fleet supervisor, who spent many hours riding along with law enforcement officials to see firsthand the dangers they encounter on patrol on a daily basis.

The system builds on the Ford Police Interceptor's DNA that puts safety and security at the top of the list said Freiburger in a press release.

Law enforcement officials have many tasks while on patrol. They have to write reports, monitor and operate in-car computers and radar guns along with other tasks while sitting in the vehicle. Surveillance mode gives officials an extra set of eyes for protection especially at night when visibility is easily compromised.

Officer security at night is a critical concern for Ford said Freiburger in a press release.

Ford collaborated with Intermotive, Inc. of Auburn, Calif., on the surveillance mode technology. The system can be installed at Crown, the facility near Ford's Chicago Assembly Plant where lights and other accessories are added to police and other law enforcement vehicles. It can also be added at local shops that are working directly with Intermotive.

The Ford Police Interceptor sedan and utility are the Ford Taurus and Ford Explorer currently for sale to civilians, respectively, which have been designed for the rigors of police duty and patrol, and is only one of a number of advanced safety features offered on the vehicles.

Both the sedan and utility vehicle are offered with all-wheel-drive as standard equipment, though front-drive spec can be ordered. This is just another layer of police protection during harsh weather, much of the nation experiences.

Though the new surveillance mode technology is only available on 2014 models, Ford would not say if the technology could be retrofitted to older models of the sedan and utility vehicles as the technology is still patent-pending.