## Police going green to save the planet

Law enforcement gets eco-conscious

by Tom Erickson

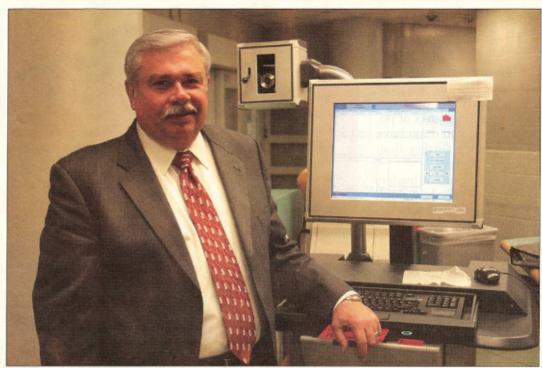
peed and durability are facts of life in law enforcement, but going "green" is not usually a term used in the capture and processing of bad guys. That is until Sheriff Frank Denning of the Johnson County, Kansas Sheriff's Office purchased four new Livescan finger-printing machines.

Not only will these new devices save the time and mess of manual fingerprinting with ink, they won't require the printing of tens of thousands of fingerprint cards per year from the old automated fingerprint machines. Additionally, one of the most important benefits is that officers will know the true identity of individuals they fingerprint faster then ever before.

Latent print forensic scientists at the Johnson County Crime Laboratory have been storing fingerprint cards for over 25 years and have amassed a collection in the hundreds of thousands of hand rolled and computer aided fingerprint cards.

With the newest addition of the Livescan units, the lab will no longer have to store fingerprint cards. Instead, scientists can access the fingerprint cards over the State Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

These devices have several purposes: to fingerprint and identify criminals and those



Sheriff Frank Denning, of the Johnson County, Kansas Sheriff's Office, recently purchased four new Livescan fingerprinting machines that cut down on wasted paper.

booked into the county jails, identify those who are applying for employment with the sheriff's office, registering as an offender, applying for a concealed carry permit or applying for any other position that requires fingerprints.

The cost of the four Livescan units was \$124,800 and was funded by a technology grant provided through the office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), which is a part of the Department of Justice.

Tom Erickson is a master deputy with the Johnson County Sheriff's Office.