

By [Tim Botos](#)[Print Page](#)

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## Full-body scanner purchased for jail

Machine can detect contraband hidden inside an inmate's body

Stark County officials have agreed to buy a full-body digital X-ray scanner to be used at the jail.

In recent months, jail inmates have been caught trying to smuggle in everything from pills to syringes. And in April, three inmates had be taken to area hospitals after overdosing on heroin inside the jail.

"Technically, it does the same thing as a medical device," said Stark County Sheriff's Maj. Brian Arnold, explaining that it produces an image similar to those provided by hospital equipment.

Even a strip search can't detect contraband that an inmate has hidden inside a body cavity or swallowed — which has and does occur. The SecurPASS scanner — to be purchased from Proactive Technology Solutions, of Dublin, Ohio — will provide jailers a digital X-ray image, from head to toe, of each inmate booked into jail.

Before entering jail, an inmate will stand on a platform as the machine performs a scan, which is capable of detecting weapons, drugs, or anything else inside the body.

SecurPASS machines are in use at Cuyahoga and Hamilton county jails and in more than 200 federal prisons, Arnold said.

On Wednesday, Stark County commissioners approved the \$208,058 purchase. That was twice as much as machines offered by two other companies, but Arnold said only SecurPASS met all the criteria contained in the county's request for proposals. He added that it's the far-superior machine, based on his research into the products.

Also Wednesday, commissioners:

- Agreed to solicit requests for qualifications from architects interested in designing a renovation of the county auditor's office. Auditor Alan Harold's staff largely is divided between the second and third floors of the county office building, and the plan is to arrange the second-floor area to accommodate all of them.
- Approved advertising for bids on 21,200 to 23,000 square feet of office space for the Child Support Enforcement Agency. Its lease at 116 Cleveland Ave. NW expires in March.

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