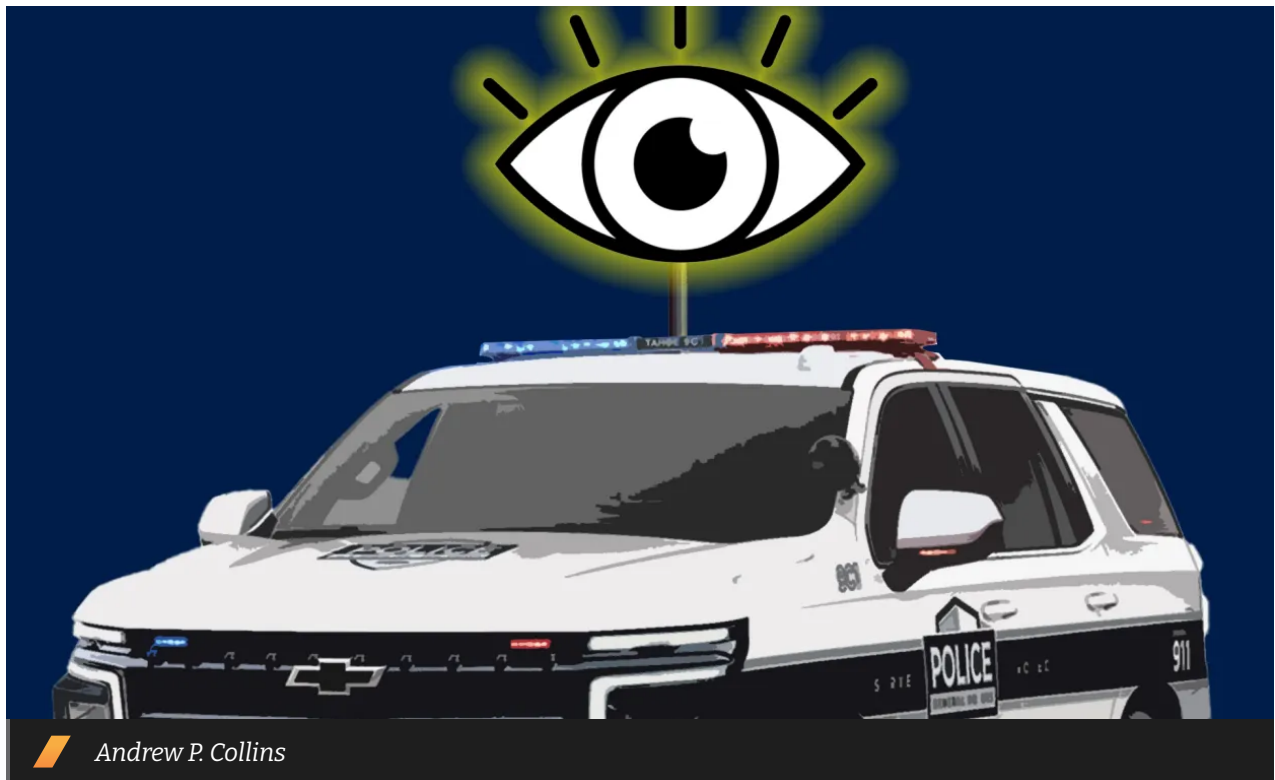


NEWS / CAR TECH / AFTERMARKET

# How Texas Police Spent \$4.5 Million on Four Chevy Tahoes

It's hard to make a 2026 Chevy Tahoe cost more than a million dollars. Until you start packing it with military-grade public surveillance technology.

ANDREW P. COLLINS / PUBLISHED JUL 14, 2026 6:01 PM EDT / 152 / ADD THE DRIVE ⓘ



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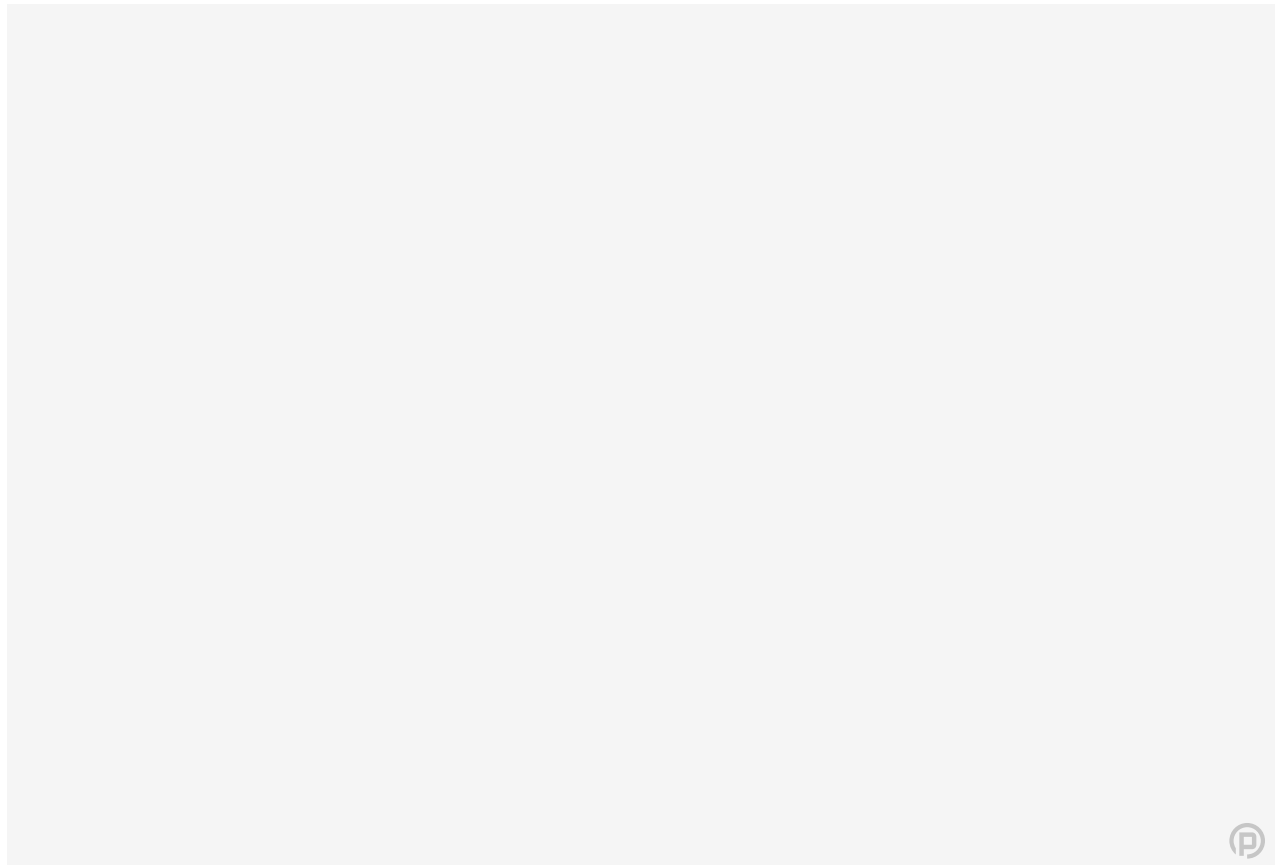
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**O**minous Israeli surveillance tech is now being deployed on American roads. FalcoNet, brought to you by a company called Cognyte (Israel's Palantir rival), secretly tracks people by intercepting the connection between your phone and the nearest cell tower. The idea is that you can strap this bad boy to a helicopter, backpack, or Chevy Tahoe and gobble



up everybody's data as you cruise around. It's already in use in Florida. This year, Texas State Police bought a little fleet of FalcoNet-equipped SUVs for just under \$4.5 million. I found the purchase receipt and FalcoNet user guide to learn a little more about it.

In March of 2026, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Criminal Investigations Division asked for approval to spend \$4,487,500 on a Cognyte surveillance setup. Actually, what they requested was “approval for emergency purchase necessary to protect the safety and welfare of state personnel and property. Delaying the procurement process could result in unacceptable safety risks to personnel and compromise operational readiness.”



The request memo is chock-full of urgency and dramatic language—peppered with terms like “emergency” and “immediate.” But no specifics are mentioned. “Any delay in procuring would compromise employee safety, public safety, operational readiness, and overall mission success,” the memo states, without saying how or why this brand-new, very expensive technology is suddenly essential to operations.

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Naturally, it wasn't just \$4.5 million for four 2026 Chevy Tahoes, though the SUVs themselves were still bizarrely expensive at \$150,000 a piece. Here's how the purchase order breaks down:

- FalcoNet Core System (x4): \$2,850,000
- Unlicensed FalcoNet core system: \$200,000
- Delta 5G Perpetual license for FalcoNet V (x4): \$280,000
- 2026 Chevrolet Tahoe (x4): \$600,000
- FalcoNet Backpack core V2 – 6 x BTS (2G/3G/4G/5G): \$355,500
- Flexible [sic] antenna kit: \$27,000
- Cognyte PA Ranger: \$105,000
- Unlicensed FalcoNet Backpack core V2 – 6 x BTS (2G/3G/4G/5G): \$70,000
- Total PO Amount: \$4,487,500

So, yeah, that's how (and why) Texas police spent \$4.5 million on four Tahoes. They're bristling with really expensive peeping equipment.

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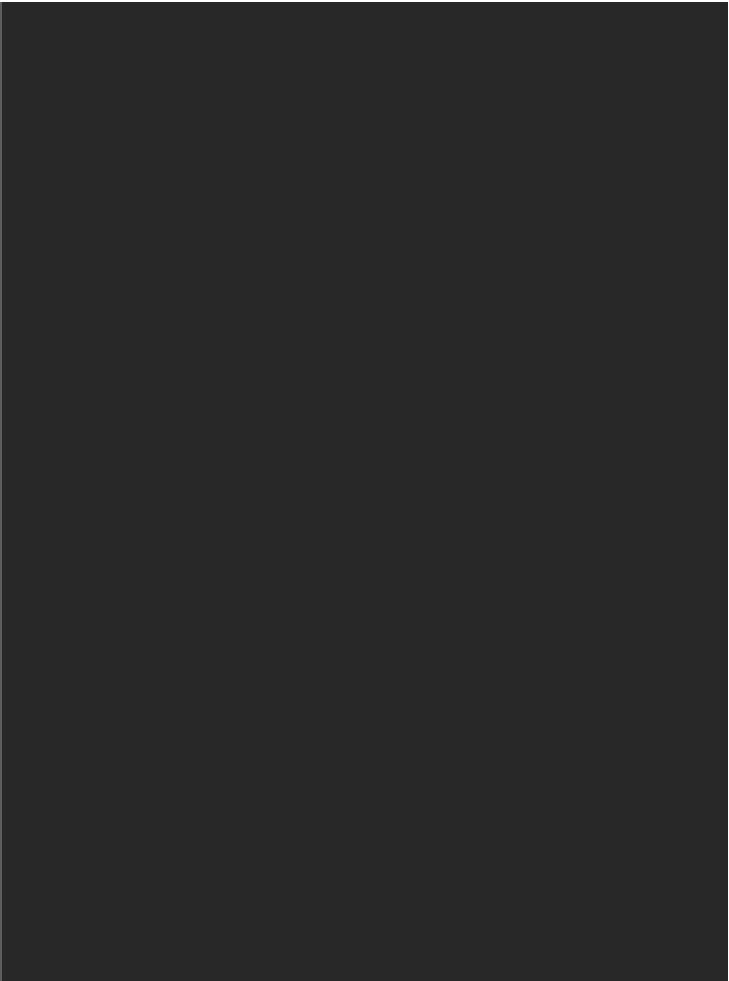
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Texas Department of Public Safety Cognyte Quote, January 21, 2026



As for the FalcoNet system itself, the core principle people are rightfully freaking out about is the fact that it can hoover up private data from unsuspecting people en masse and in secret. I don't consider myself a person with anything to hide, but I still hate this with a passion. Just the other day, a member of our very own staff was wrongfully detained by corporate-controlled cop tech!

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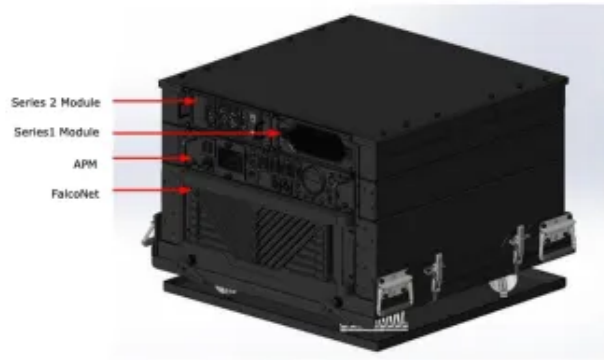
And as *Cybernews* pointed out, the legality of such things is still questionable. In fact, the Supreme Court ruled (*Chatrre v United States*) “that people have a reasonable expectation of privacy in location data revealing their movements, and that even short-term tracking of that kind counts as a search under the Fourth Amendment.”

We have been and will continue to cover the rapidly evolving corpo-surveillance state we’re all driving around in, because it affects infrastructure and road travel (driving) in such a major way.



Cognyte

Rack mounted



## 3 Hardware Configuration

## Interfaces

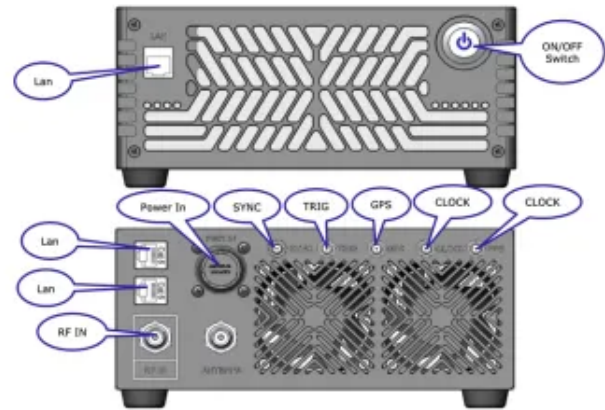


Figure 1 3G Box Front and rear panel

## FalcoNet hardware Cognyte

But we can also get into the specifics of this technology, too, since I found the FalcoNet user guide and thought you might be curious about how it works exactly. GM has a standard cop loadout for the Tahoe: Tahoe Police Pursuit Vehicles come with a V8, big brakes, robust suspension, secondary battery, and 250-amp alternator.

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The FalcoNet system itself breaks down thusly:

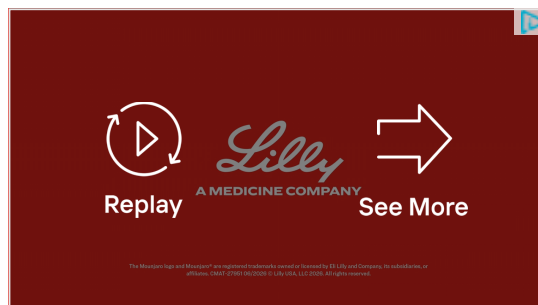
- **Dimensions & Form Factor:** The core module measures 563mm x 200mm x 86mm (designed as a 2U half 19" rack drawer) and weighs 8kg.
- **Hardware Interface:** The module features RJ45 LAN ports, a 4-way Amphenol Power connector, SMA panel connectors for GPS and clock synchronization, and QN-Type connectors for RF input and antenna output.
- **Power:** It requires a DC power input of 24v to 36v, drawing about 35 watts at idle and 260 watts at full power transmission.
- **Kits:** Government purchase orders (such as one from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement) show that the system is modular and sold in "Deployment Kits" packaged in SKB Pelican cases containing the core Software Defined Radio (SDR) base stations, power distribution units, and directional antenna kits

From the outside, I suspect these Tahoes will look pretty regular. Standard antenna-hiding tactics include making a slightly raised false roof, hiding them in what looks like a Thule ski box, or using little pucks. But for \$4.5 million, I'm sure Cognyte will be able to make these SUVs look as scary or nondescript as Texas DPS wants.

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**Jeff OH**  
14 July, 2026

Everybody bangs on about Chinese EVs and surveillance concerns, but here you have 4 vehicles that *absolutely* will be sharing data on US citizens with a foreign government for it's own benefit.  
Not just this vehicle, but any home it passes, any pedestrian in range or any vehicle it can scan.

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**st166**  
15 July, 2026

It's not either/or. Most of the same people also find this unacceptable.

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**V8Nation**  
15 July, 2026

"Delaying the procurement process could result in unacceptable safety risks to personnel and compromise operational readiness."

How was this department safe and effective for all the decades before this equipment was invented?  
(Edited)

Reply ·  23 · Share

**deezler**  
15 July, 2026

Exactly. Total BS. They had to send 4 million taxpayer dollars to Israel's version of palantir... so they could.... illegally hoover wireless data from Americans and share it to who knows where? Yeah, I feel much safer now.

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 2 replies

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S

**Sugar Shack**

15 July, 2026

I'm no legal expert, but this strikes me as warrantless wiretapping. We are living in a police state. If it ever makes it up to the Heritage Foundation, er, SCOTUS it will be upheld.

Reply ·  16 · Share**CosmikMotorsports**

15 July, 2026

More often than not, it's the liberals on SCOTUS that have historically voted to uphold things that violate the 4th Amendment. The conservatives on the court have a much stronger record at consistently striking down 4th Amendment violations--this is just a fact.

Reply ·  3 · Share 3 replies Show 2 more replies**Beacher2**

14 July, 2026

It is clearly a fourth amendment violation.

An insight into the surveillance economy shows us that companies like Palantir have had billions poured into them by the controllers of capital because they know they have the backing of an administration that is hell bent on spying on the public out of s...

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**redsailboat415**

14 July, 2026

Warrantless search. The lawsuits write themselves. These Tahoes may wind up costing the State way more than \$4.5M.

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S

**Sean**

14 July, 2026

The key question is why.

The founding fathers a rightly feared government and now it's in overdrive

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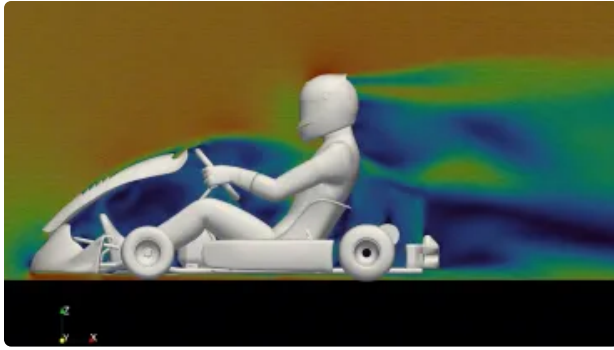


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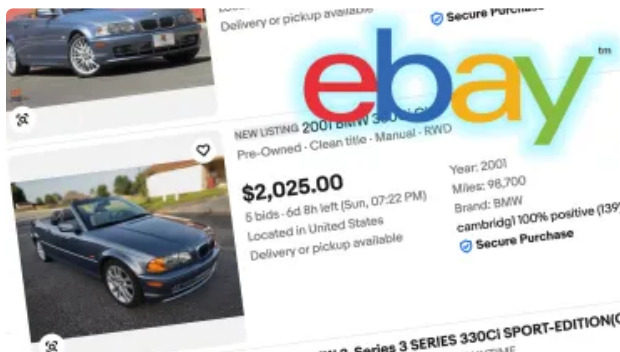
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