The use of technology and mobile tools for police work continues to increase, but what tools are officers using most in the field? Which devices and applications do they prefer? A December 2018 survey of active police officers found that while most rely on laptops, many want the enhanced mobility of a tablet or smartphone.

**WHAT DEVICES ARE OFFICERS USING?**
- 80% Laptops
- 70% Smartphones
- 25% Tablets

**WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR PRIMARY WORK DEVICE? WHAT ARE ITS KEY BENEFITS?**

**LAPTOPS:**
- Most said a laptop is the department-issued (or mandated) device.

**TABLETS:**
- Nearly half said portability and ease of use are key benefits.

**SMARTPHONES:**
- More than half said mobility and easy access are key benefits.

**OTHER:**
- Mostly desktops.

Of those who said a laptop is their primary device, 24% said they use it because it’s what their agency issues. However, 41% of those said they’d prefer a tablet.

**WHAT APPLICATIONS DO OFFICERS USE MOST OFTEN ON MOBILE COMPUTING DEVICES?**
- 75% Report Writing
- 68% Mobile Data
- 63% Dispatch Communications
- 53% In-Car Computing
- 46% Photos
- 46% Field Notes

**WHAT FUNCTIONS ARE STILL COMPLETED ON PAPER FORMS, DESKTOP COMPUTERS OR VEHICLE-MOUNTED COMPUTERS?**
- 40% Ticketing
- 39% Field Notes
- 38% Report Writing
- 35% Evidence Documentation

**MOBILE TABLETS VS. MOUNTED LAPTOPS:**
- 82% said it is extremely or very important to have a single computer that can be used without interruption as they transition from the office to the vehicle and on foot in the field.
- 78% said the ergonomics of a mobile computing device are extremely or very important.

**MUST-HAVE FEATURES FOR MOBILE DEVICES:**
- Ruggedness/durability (85%)
- Performance in harsh conditions (79%)
- Battery life (83%)

Results based on a December 2018 survey of 175 U.S. law enforcement professionals.