

In 1999, Lycoming County was the first Probation Department in the state to track less serious offenders utilizing Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) units in active and passive design in an effort to reduce the prison population. Units are secured on the ankle of the offender to monitor the offender's location. For security purposes, the unit is secured to the offender using high-density plastic with an inner core of stainless steel. The unit transmits signals to a portable receiver unit or portable tracking device which has a GPS receiver, as well as a telephone and cellular communication capabilities. In addition, the field monitoring device, called the SMART System Portable Tracking Device, incorporates a computer which contains the schedule for the offender and any off limit areas (Hot Zones). The SMART System Portable Tracking Device allows the County's Probation Departments to be notified of offender violations and provides location information.

The Global Positioning Program is extremely effective at minimizing the inmate population while maintaining public safety. The statistical data for the program is reflective of the impact this program offers. In 2008, 101 offenders were enrolled in the Global Positioning Program for a total of 6,350 days. The average number of days served by each offender was sixty-two (62) days. In 2009, 166 offenders were enrolled in the Global Positioning Program for a total of 4,454 days. The average number of days served by each offender was sixty-five (65) days. Overall, the Global Positioning Program has diverted 166 offenders from the Lycoming County Prison. As a result, a total of 8,584 days were saved over the past two (2) years.