News Editor
By Hayley Burgess

Seconds count when there’s an emergency. Campus police now can respond to a call on the emergency phones in five seconds.

Twelve new emergency phones were installed over winter break. The new phones, called Call 24 Wireless Callbox Systems, replaced some older phones that had been unreliable.

The new emergency phones are wireless, meaning no phone lines. They are now directly connected to the police radio. This has cut the response time of what was one minute to about five seconds.

“Response is very important in an emergency situation,” Chief Meiduffie Cummings Jr. said.

The new phones also have the ability to make public announcements through the speaker system.

“They are basically a walkie-talkie in a box, with a direct connect to officer radios in less than four seconds,” Chief Cummings said.

Chief Cummings presented the idea to Chancellor Allen C. Meadors who gave his approval to replace the phones.

Chief Cummings was able to determine which phones to replace based on reports from the Student Government Association Night Walks.

Most of the problems with the phones came from old age. Some of them are more than seven years old and the parts to fix them are no longer available. The phone lines were also a problem. Some of the lines would get cut during construction, and the lack of phone line would cause two phones to operate on the same line.

Campus police would like to replace the remaining 14 older emergency phones in the future.

Two of the new phones have not been put in yet, because they are solar powered and require a different type of mounting pole.

“[The new phones] are more practical, and user friendly in the campus environment,” Chief Cummings said.

Emergency phones are located at:

• The southeast corner of Commons Performing Arts Center.
• The northwest corner of the U.C. Annex.
• The northeast corner of Lot 20 behind Lumbee Hall.
• On Sampson Hall North (sidewalk from Hawk Drive to Village Apts).
• On Odum Street North (behind observatory next to the sidewalk in front of Berea Baptist Church).
• Lot 14 North (at the corner of Lot 14 in front of the Police department).
• At the Intramural fields behind Village Apts.
• At Cash Points.
• At the Water Feature.
• Three phones in the Bell Complex.