| AtriCure, I<br>Form 8-K<br>March 02,                            |  |                                |                                    |  |
|---|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| UNITED S  | STATES   |                                |                                    |  |
| SECURIT   | IES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION                    |                                |                                    |  |
| WASHING   | GTON, D.C. 20549                               |                                |                                    |  |
|   |  |                                |                                    |  |
|   |  |                                |                                    |  |
| FORM 8-F  | ζ  |                                |                                    |  |
|   |  |                                |                                    |  |
|   |  |                                |                                    |  |
| CURREN  | ΓREPORT  |                                |                                    |  |
| PURSUAN   | NT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) of the               |                                |                                    |  |
| SECURIT   | IES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934                       |                                |                                    |  |
| Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): March 1, 2018 |  |                                |                                    |  |
|   |  |                                |                                    |  |
|   |  |                                |                                    |  |
| ATRICUR   | E, INC.  |                                |                                    |  |
| (Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)              |  |                                |                                    |  |
|   |  |                                |                                    |  |
|   |  |                                |                                    |  |
|   |  |                                |                                    |  |
|   | Dilaman  | 000 51 470                     | 24 1040205                         |  |
|   | Delaware                                       |                                | 34-1940305                         |  |
|   | (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation) | (Commission<br>File<br>Number) | n(IRS Employer Identification No.) |  |

| 7555 Innovation Way  |   |  |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| Mason, OH  | 45040   |  |  |  |  |
| (Address of principal executive offices)   | (Zip Code)  |  |  |  |  |
| Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (513) 755-4100   |   |  |  |  |  |
| Not Applicable   |   |  |  |  |  |
| (Former name or former address, if changed since last report)  |   |  |  |  |  |
|  |   |  |  |  |  |
|  |   |  |  |  |  |
| Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of  |   |  |  |  |  |
| the registrant under any of the following provisions (see Gene   | ral Instruction A.2. below):                            |  |  |  |  |
| W. i.e   | 11 A (47 GFP 222 427)                                   |  |  |  |  |
| Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Secu   | irities Act (17 CFR 230.425)                            |  |  |  |  |
| Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchan   | ge Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)                              |  |  |  |  |
| Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-20  | (b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))        |  |  |  |  |
|  |   |  |  |  |  |
| Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(  | c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))         |  |  |  |  |
| Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging a   | growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities |  |  |  |  |
| Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Sechapter).  | curities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this       |  |  |  |  |
| Emerging growth company  |   |  |  |  |  |
| If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the |   |  |  |  |  |

Exchange Act.

Item 5.02.Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

Effective March 1, 2018, the Compensation Committee (the "Committee") of the Board of Directors (the "Board") of AtriCure, Inc. (the "Company") approved the grant of performance share awards (the "2018 PSAs") to the Company's named executive officers and certain other employees pursuant to the Company's 2014 Stock Incentive Plan.

The form of award agreement for the 2018 PSAs (the "2018 PSA Grant Form") provides, among other things, that (i) each 2018 PSA that vests represents the right to receive one share of the Company's common stock; (ii) the 2018 PSAs vest based on the Company's achieving specified performance measurements over a performance period of three years, beginning January 1, 2018; (iii) the performance measurements include revenue CAGR as defined in the 2018 PSA Grant Form; (iv) threshold, target and maximum payout opportunities established for the 2018 PSAs will be used to calculate the number of shares that will be issuable when the award vests, which may range from 0% to 200% of the target amount; (v) any 2018 PSAs that are earned are scheduled to vest and be settled in shares of the Company's common stock at the end of the performance period; and (vi) all or a portion of the 2018 PSAs may vest following a change of control or a termination of service by reason of death or disability (each as described in greater detail in the 2018 PSA Grant Form).

Effective March 1, 2018, the Committee granted the following target number of 2018 PSAs to the Company's named executive officers as follows:

| Name and Title  | Target Number of PSAs |
|---|-----------------------|
| Michael H. Carrel   |                       |
|   | 31,761                |
| President and Chief Executive Officer                     | ,                     |
| M. Andrew Wade  |                       |
| W. Midrew Wade  | 11,998                |
| G ' W' D '1 ( 101' CE' '100'                              | 11,996                |
| Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer         |                       |
| Douglas J. Seith  |                       |
|   | 11,998                |
| Chief Operating Officer                                   |                       |
| Justin J. Noznesky  |                       |
| •   | 8,575                 |
| Senior Vice President, Marketing and Business Development | -,                    |
| Salvatore (Sam) Privitera                                 |                       |
| Sarvatore (Sam) i rivitera                                | 7.059                 |
|   | 7,058                 |
| Chief Technology Officer                                  |                       |

The foregoing summary of the 2018 PSA Grant Form does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the text of the 2018 PSA Grant Form as attached to and filed with this Form 8-K as Exhibit 10.1.

Item 9.01Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d)Exhibits

No.Description

10.12018 Form of Performance Share Award Grant

## **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

## ATRICURE, INC.

Dated: March 2, 2018 By: /s/ M. Andrew Wade

M. Andrew Wade

Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer