



Ventura County District Attorney's Office

Military Equipment Annual Report 2022

May 25, 2023

On May 24, 2022, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors adopted Ventura County Ordinance 4603 pursuant to California Assembly Bill No. 481 (AB 481) which codified Chapter 12.8 to Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code, commencing with section 7070. The legislative intent behind AB 481 was to increase the public transparency by which California law enforcement agencies fund, acquire, and/or use "military equipment."

Ordinance 4603 requires the District Attorney's Office to obtain Board of Supervisors approval prior to taking certain actions relating to the funding, acquisition, and/or use of equipment defined by the ordinance as "military equipment." The term "military equipment" as used in Ordinance 4603 does not necessarily indicate equipment used by the military. The majority of the equipment defined by this ordinance and possessed by the District Attorney's Office is employed by most law enforcement agencies across the country to enhance citizen and officer safety. In addition, Ordinance 4603 requires the District Attorney's Office to submit an annual military equipment report to the Board of Supervisors by July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year for as long as the military equipment is available for use.

The District Attorney's Office shall make each annual military equipment report publicly available on the department website for as long as the military equipment is available for use and hold a community engagement meeting within 30 days of posting the report to the department website. The report shall include the following information for the immediately preceding calendar year:

1. A summary of how the Military Equipment was used and the purpose for its use.
2. A summary of any complaints or concerns received concerning the Military Equipment.
3. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the Military Equipment Use Policy, and any actions taken in response.
4. The total annual cost for each type of Military Equipment and the source of funds to cover such expenses.
5. The quantity possessed for each type of Military Equipment.
6. Whether there is intent to acquire additional Military Equipment in the next year, and if so, the quantity sought for each type of equipment.

As this ordinance was adopted on May 24, 2022, this report shall cover the period from May 24, 2022, through December 31, 2022.

**Unmanned, remotely piloted, powered aerial vehicles**

- The District Attorney's Office does not possess any equipment in this category, nor is there any intent to seek equipment in this category.

**Unmanned, remotely piloted, powered ground vehicles**

- The District Attorney's Office does not possess any equipment in this category, nor is there any intent to seek equipment in this category.

**Mine-resistant ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles or armored personnel carriers. However, police versions of standard consumer vehicles are specifically excluded from this subdivision.**

- The District Attorney's Office does not possess any equipment in this category, nor is there any intent to seek equipment in this category.

**High mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWV), commonly referred to as Humvees, two and one-half-ton trucks, five-ton trucks, or wheeled vehicles that have a breaching or entry apparatus attached. However, unarmored all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and motorized dirt bikes are specifically excluded from this subdivision.**

- The District Attorney's Office does not possess any equipment in this category, nor is there any intent to seek equipment in this category.

**Tracked armored vehicles that provide ballistic protection to their occupants and utilize a tracked system instead of wheels for forward motion.**

- The District Attorney's Office does not possess any equipment in this category, nor is there any intent to seek equipment in this category.

**Command and control vehicles that are either built or modified to facilitate the operational control and direction of public safety units.**

- The District Attorney's Office does not possess any equipment in this category, nor is there any intent to seek equipment in this category.

**Weaponized aircraft, vessels, or vehicles of any kind.**

- The District Attorney's Office does not possess any equipment in this category, nor is there any intent to seek equipment in this category.

**Battering rams, slugs, and breaching apparatuses that are explosive in nature. However, items designed to remove a lock, such as bolt cutters, or a handheld ram designed to be operated by one person, are specifically excluded from this subdivision.**

- The District Attorney's Office does not possess any equipment in this category, nor is there any intent to seek equipment in this category.

**Firearms and ammunition of .50 caliber or greater. However, standard issue shotguns are specifically excluded from this subdivision.**

- The District Attorney's Office does not possess any equipment in this category, nor is there any intent to seek equipment in this category.

**Specialized firearms and ammunition of less than .50 caliber, including assault weapons as defined in sections 30510 and 30515 of the California Penal Code, with the exception of standard issue service weapons and ammunition of less than .50 caliber that are issued to officers, agents, or employees of a law enforcement agency or a state agency.**

- The District Attorney's Office has 15 Colt M4 .223 caliber rifles. These are precision weapons intended to address a threat with more accuracy from a greater distance than a handgun, such as an encounter with an armed or barricaded subject. They also provide greater penetration of soft body armor than a handgun.
- Usage
  - During this specified period, our rifles were not pointed at any potential suspect.
  - There were no instances of a rifle being fired at a suspect during this specified period.
- Expenses related to this equipment
  - During this specified period, we did not incur any additional expenses within this category.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- Intent to obtain additional equipment
  - We have no plans to add additional equipment within this category.

**Any firearm or firearm accessory that is designed to launch explosive projectiles.**

- The District Attorney's Office does not possess any equipment in this category, nor is there any intent to seek equipment in this category.

**"Flashbang" grenades and explosive breaching tools, "tear gas," and "pepper balls," excluding standard, service-issued handheld pepper spray.**

- The District Attorney's Office has 1 Tippman Pepperball Launcher. This is a non-lethal device that discharges a small hard plastic projectile that contains a powder chemical agent, specifically PAVA pepper powder. This tool is used from a distance in order to compel potentially violent suspects to cease dangerous actions and comply with arrest. It may also be used to compel specific individuals in a large, violent, and riotous crowd to disperse from an outdoor area.

- Usage
  - During this specified period, our pepperball launcher was not pointed at any potential suspect.
  - There were no instances of our pepperball launcher being fired during this specified period.
- Expenses related to this equipment
  - During this specified period, we did not incur any additional expenses within this category.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- Intent to obtain additional equipment
  - We have no plans to add additional equipment within this category.

**Taser Shockwave, microwave weapons, water cannons, and the Long-Range Acoustic Device (LRAD).**

- The District Attorney's Office does not possess any equipment in this category, nor is there any intent to seek equipment in this category.

**The following projectile launch platforms and their associated munitions: 40mm projectile launchers, "bean bag," rubber bullet, and specialty impact munition (SIM) weapons.**

- The District Attorney's Office has 1 Defense Technology 40 MM Launcher. This is a less-lethal device that discharges a lightweight plastic and foam projectile. This tool is used from a distance in order to compel potentially violent suspects to cease dangerous actions and comply with arrest.
- Usage
  - During this specified period, our 40 MM launcher was not pointed at any potential suspect.
  - There were no instances of our 40 MM launcher being fired during this specified period.
- Expenses related to this equipment
  - During this specified period, we did not incur any additional expenses within this category.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- Intent to obtain additional equipment
  - We have no plans to add additional equipment within this category.
- The District Attorney's Office has 3 Remington 870 Less Lethal Shotguns. This is a less-lethal device that discharges a 12-gauge beanbag round. This tool is used from a distance in order to compel potentially violent suspects to cease dangerous actions and comply with arrest.

- Usage
  - During this specified period, our Less Lethal Shotguns were not pointed at any potential suspect.
- Expenses related to this equipment
  - During this specified period, we did not incur any additional expenses within this category.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- Intent to obtain additional equipment
  - We have no plans to add additional equipment within this category.

**Any other equipment as determined by a governing body or a state agency to require additional oversight.**

- The Board of Supervisors has not identified any additional items requiring oversight.