



Ventura County Sheriff  
Jim Fryhoff, Sheriff

Ventura County District Attorney's Office  
Erik Nasarenko, District Attorney



June 03, 2025

County of Ventura Board of Supervisors

**Subject:**     **Approval of the Military Equipment Annual Reports and Updated Military Equipment Policies of the Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's Office; Approval of, and Authorization for the Sheriff's Office to Continue Participation in the United States Department of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services, Law Enforcement Support Office's Military Equipment Surplus Program to Obtain Items Designated by Ventura County Ordinance No. 4603 as Military Equipment; Review and Renew Ordinance No. 4603 In Accordance With Ordinance No. 4603 and Government Code Sections 7071(e)(1) and (2).**

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that your Board:

1. Approve the attached Military Equipment Report and Military Equipment Policy of the Sheriff's Office, attached hereto as Exhibits 1 and 2.
2. Approve the attached Military Equipment Report and Military Equipment Policy of the District Attorney's Office, attached hereto as Exhibits 3 and 4.
3. Approve, and authorize the Sheriff's Office's continued participation in the United States Department of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services, Law Enforcement Support Office's military equipment surplus program to obtain additional unmanned ground vehicles (bomb robots), which are designated by Ventura County Ordinance No. 4603 as Military Equipment, at no cost to the Sheriff's Office during FY 2025/26.
4. Review and renew Ordinance No. 4603 in accordance with the language of Ordinance No. 4603 and Government Code sections 7071(e)(1) and (2).

**Fiscal Impact Statement from Sheriff's Office:**

There is no fiscal impact on the Sheriff's Office.

**Fiscal Impact Statement from District Attorney's Office:**

There is no fiscal impact on the District Attorney's Office.

**Discussion:**

On May 24, 2022, your Board 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 Sheriff's Office and 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 Sheriff's Office and 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 Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's Office to submit to your Board annual Military Equipment Reports and updated Military Equipment Policies no later than July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, so long as the military equipment is available for use. Ordinance 4603 and Government Code sections 7071(e)(1) and (2) further require that your Board review and renew Ordinance 4603 at least annually.

The Military Equipment Reports address the quantity of each type of military equipment possessed by the Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's Office, the cost associated with the equipment, and a summary of how the equipment was used, and whether any complaints or concerns were received about the equipment. The ordinance also requires both agencies to post their annual reports and policies to their public websites and jointly host a public meeting to receive any public comment and address any public concerns about the use of military equipment. The documents were posted to the Sheriff's website on April 07, 2025 and the District Attorney's website on April 25, 2025. The public meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2025 and will be completed prior to your Board's requested approval of these documents.

In addition, the Sheriff's Office requests that your Board authorize the Sheriff's Office's continued participation in the United States Department of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services, Law Enforcement Support Office's military equipment surplus program to obtain additional unmanned ground vehicles (SWAT/Bomb robots) at no cost to the Sheriff's Office during FY 2025/26. The Law Enforcement Support Office

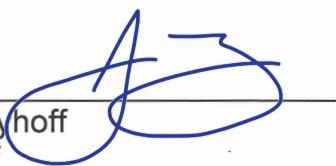
Program, formerly referred to as the 1033 Program, allows local law enforcement agencies to obtain designated military surplus equipment for law enforcement purposes. This particular equipment is utilized by the Sheriff's Bomb Unit and SWAT team to remotely gain visual/audio data, carry equipment, open doors, facilitate disposal of hazardous devices and clear buildings without exposing deputies to hazardous situations. They may be deployed during high-risk situations such as searches for wanted subjects, barricaded subjects and hostage rescues. They may also be used to inspect hazardous materials, possible explosive devices, and other hazardous situations. The Sheriff's Office currently has 8 unmanned ground vehicles (robots), but 3 are obsolete or damaged to the point they are no longer used. The Sheriff's Office purchased and received 1 new unmanned ground vehicle for the SWAT team in 2024, the remainder are aging and expensive to replace or repair. Therefore, the Sheriff's Office is looking for cost effective methods to improve the existing inventory of unmanned ground vehicles. Several of the previously reported unmanned ground vehicles have been returned to the federal government in 2024.

### **Strategic Plan**

These items contribute to the Board of Supervisors 2024-2027 strategic plan, seeking to increase transparency and accountability through compliance with Ventura County Ordinance 4603, which requires each agency to submit to your Board an annual Military Equipment report. This report, as well as an annual community engagement meeting, will address the quantity of each type of equipment possessed by the Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's Office, the cost associated with the equipment, and a summary of how the equipment was used and whether any complaints or concerns were received about the equipment.

This letter has been reviewed by the offices of the County Executive, County Counsel, and the Auditor Controller. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Sheriff's Commander Alan Hartkop at 805-383-8784 or District Attorney Bureau of Investigation Deputy Chief Cloyce Conway at 805-477-1648.

Jim Fryhoff  
Sheriff

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Fryhoff', written over a horizontal line.

Erik Nasarenko  
District Attorney

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'E. Nasarenko', written over a horizontal line.

- Exhibit 1 – VCSO Military Equipment Annual Report
- Exhibit 2 – VCSO Military Equipment Policy
- Exhibit 3 – District Attorney's Military Equipment Annual Report
- Exhibit 4 – District Attorney's Military Equipment Policy
- Exhibit 5 – Ventura County Ordinance 4603