



Ventura County Sheriff'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 Sheriff'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 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 to submit an annual military equipment report to the Board of Supervisors by July 1st of each year for as long as the military equipment is available for use.

The Sheriff'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 period from May 24, 2022 through December 31, 2022

Unmanned, remotely piloted, powered aerial vehicles

- The Sheriff's Office has 20 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), but 6 are obsolete or damaged to the point they are no longer used. UAV may be deployed when an aerial view would assist with investigations, including missing persons' searches, vehicle collisions, natural disaster management, crime scene evidence collection, public safety, high-risk apprehension of armed violent suspects, and other life-saving missions. The Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services also utilizes UAV to for disaster prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery.
- Usage
 - 26 times to assist in the search for suspects of crimes
 - 17 times for crimes scene or traffic collision documentation
 - 9 times for internal documentation of Sheriff facilities, equipment, and staff events
 - 7 times to assist other law enforcement agencies
 - 6 times to search for missing persons/search and rescue operations
 - 2 times for tactical operations
- Equipment Costs
 - \$18,343 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management Performance Grant was approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 13, 2022 for the purchase of one DJI Matrice 30T UAV that was received in 2022. This UAV will be utilized by the Office of Emergency Services.
 - \$4,600 from California Fire Safe Council's 2021 Wildfire Evacuation Route Planning and Development Grant was approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 13, 2022 for the purchase of one DJI Mavic 3 Enterprise UAV that was received in 2023. This UAV will be utilized by the Office of Emergency Services.
 - Approximately \$2,100 was spent on FAA licensing, batteries, and supplies for existing equipment. Funding was derived from the Sheriff's existing FY 22/23 budget.
 - Approximately \$18,226 was spent on UAV training during the specified period. Funding was derived from the Sheriff's existing FY 22/23 budget.
- 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
 - On May 16, 2023, \$21,280 from the General Services Agency Parks Off-Highway Vehicle Trust was approved by the Board of Supervisors for the purchase of one DJI Matrice 30T UAV for the Sheriff's Lockwood Valley Station. The primary purpose of this UAV will be to assess trail conditions and locate missing persons and persons involved in off-highway traffic

collisions. The new UAV has not been received as it is still in the procurement status.

- The Sheriff's Office intends to request Board of Supervisors approval for the purchase of two additional DJI Matrice 30T UAV for a total of \$39,000. Funding will be derived from the Sheriff's asset forfeiture accounts during the FY23/24 budget cycle. These UAV will replace two aging DJI Matrice 210 UAV that are near end of life.
- The Sheriff's Office intends to request Board of Supervisors approval for the purchase of three additional DJI Mavic 3 Enterprise Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for a total of \$13,027. Funding will be derived from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management Performance Grant. This equipment will be used to assist the Office of Emergency Services in performing complex orthomosaic mapping missions critical to identifying and tracking issues before and after disasters.

Unmanned, remotely piloted, powered ground vehicles

- The Sheriff's Office has 13 unmanned ground vehicles (robots), but 8 are obsolete or damaged to the point they are no longer used. This 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.
- Usage
 - 16 times for community events/demonstrations
 - 4 times for calls for service related to possible explosives
 - 2 times for building sweeps prior to dignitary visits
- Equipment Costs
 - There were no new purchases related to this equipment.
 - Approximately \$1,150 was spent on batteries and other supplies related to existing equipment. Funding was derived from the Sheriff's existing FY22/23 budget.
 - There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into existing Bomb Unit and SWAT team training.
- 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
 - The Sheriff's Office intends to request Board of Supervisors approval to continue to participate in the Law Enforcement Support Office's military equipment surplus program and specifically seek out additional military surplus robots to improve the existing inventory utilized by the Sheriff's Bomb Unit. Military surplus items, such as the ones requested, are provided to law enforcement at no cost. In addition, the existing inoperable

military surplus equipment will be returned to the federal government over the next year.

- The Sheriff's Office intends to request Board of Supervisors approval to purchase one Avatar III Security Robot (or equivalent) for approximately \$54,000. In 2021, the Sheriff's Office applied for a Homeland Security Grant and received approval for \$64,825 to purchase this item along with one Kinetic Breaching Tool in support of SWAT team operations. Though awarded, this grant has not yet been funded. The requested approval will be contingent upon the funding of the grant.

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

- The Sheriff's Office has two armored personnel carriers, a Lenco Bearcat and a Lenco Medcat. These vehicles are to be used during critical incidents to support tactical operations and provide safe transport, security, and rescue of department personnel and members of the public. They may also be used during disaster-related emergencies, search and rescue operations, and terrorism preparedness, protection, and response.
- Usage
 - 19 times for community events/demonstrations
 - 5 times for mutual aid requests from other local law enforcement agencies to assist with search warrants and/or barricaded subjects.
 - 1 time for a patrol assist related to a barricaded subject.
- Equipment Costs
 - On February 7, 2023, the Sheriff's Office received approval from the Board of Supervisors to accept the donation of one Lenco Advanced Rescue Medevac with a value of \$347,000 that was donated by Direct Relief. The vehicle was received in 2023. There was no cost to the Sheriff's Office other than the need to outfit it with approximately \$8,000 in essential equipment in 2023. Funding will be derived from the Sheriff's asset forfeiture accounts during FY22/23 budget cycle.
 - Approximately \$2,890 was spent from the Sheriff's existing FY 22/23 budget on service, repairs, and fuel for the Lenco Bearcat.
 - There were no costs associated with the Medcat during 2022 as it was not received until 2023.
 - There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into existing SWAT team training.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- There is no current intent to seek additional 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 Sheriff's Office has two usable Light-Medium Tactical Vehicles (M1078 troop transports) and one AM General HMMWV (Humvee). These are high mobility multipurpose four-wheel drive vehicles with the capacity to travel over difficult terrain. Both vehicles are assigned to Search and Rescue as their primary purpose is to perform rescue missions in areas that are not accessible to traditional first responder vehicles. They may also be used during other emergencies, such as active shooter or hostage scenarios, and antiterrorism preparedness, protection, and response.
- Usage
 - These vehicles were not deployed during the specified period.
- Equipment Costs
 - Approximately \$6,180 was spent on service, repairs, and fuel for these existing vehicles. Funding was derived from the Sheriff's existing FY 22/23 budget.
 - There were no training costs as the training related to this equipment is incorporated into existing Search and Rescue team training.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- There is no current intent to seek additional 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 Sheriff's Office has one armored Caterpillar tractor (ROOK). It operates on tracks to provide greater ground contact than tires and it has mission specific attachments including a floor-to-roof front shield, hydraulic breaching ram, a grapple claw, and a vehicle extraction tool. The Rook may be utilized during SWAT and/or Bomb Unit deployments when there is a need for its defensive ballistic protection, rescue platform, and the ability to navigate rough terrain environments where other equipment would be limited. It may also be used during disaster-related emergencies and search and rescue operations.
- Usage
 - 6 times for mutual aid requests from other local law enforcement agencies to assist with search warrants and/or barricaded subjects.
 - 3 times for community events/demonstrations
 - 2 time for to assist Sheriff's Office personnel with search warrant service.
- Equipment Costs
 - There were no new equipment costs.
 - Approximately \$1,810 was spent on service, repairs, and fuel for existing equipment. Funding was derived from the Sheriff's existing FY 22/23 budget.
 - There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into existing SWAT team training.

- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- There is no current intent to seek additional 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 Sheriff's Office has two 45' Frontline Communications command centers, two 20' Search and Rescue trailers, and one 29' Freightliner SWAT command vehicle. They are all used as mobile incident command posts during critical incidents, search and rescue operations, and pre-staged events.
- There are also two older 5th wheel trailers that have been relinquished to GSA for auction.
- Usage
 - 6 times for search and rescue operations
 - 5 times for community events/demonstrations
 - 4 times for critical incidents/criminal investigations
 - 1 time for a search warrant
- Equipment Costs
 - There were no new equipment costs.
 - Approximately \$12,225 was spent on equipment, service, repairs, and fuel for these existing vehicles. Funding was derived from the Sheriff's existing FY 22/23 budget.
 - Approximately \$2,590 was spent in 2022 from the Sheriff's existing FY 22/23 budget on training drivers who operate the command posts.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- There is no current intent to seek additional equipment in this category.

Weaponized aircraft, vessels, or vehicles of any kind.

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

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 Sheriff's Office has two breaching shotguns and four kinetic breaching tools (KBT). This equipment is used by the SWAT team and members of specialized investigative units to quickly and effectively breach doors.
- Usage
 - The breaching shotgun was not used during this specified period, other than during training.
 - The KBT was used 10 times during the service of search warrants.
- Expenses related to this equipment
 - There were no new equipment costs.

- There were no costs related to existing equipment.
 - There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into existing team trainings.
- 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
 - On December 13, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved the use of \$55,000 from the FY 22/23 state asset forfeiture funds for the purchase of five kinetic breaching tools. These breaching tools will be used in support of patrol and investigative operations. The new breaching tools have not been received as they are still in the procurement status.
 - The Sheriff's Office intends to request Board of Supervisors approval to purchase one Kinetic Breaching Tool for approximately \$11,000. In 2021, the Sheriff's Office applied for a Homeland Security Grant and received approval for \$64,825 to purchase this item along with one Avatar III Security Robot in support of SWAT team operations. Though awarded, this grant has not yet been funded. The requested approval will be contingent upon the funding of the grant.

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

- The Sheriff's SWAT team has one .50 caliber rifle and about 400 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition. It is a precision weapon to address a threat with more accuracy from a greater distance than other rifles utilized by the Sheriff's Office. This rifle also provides greater penetration in situations where smaller caliber ammunition is ineffective due to armor protection.
- Usage
 - This rifle was not used during the specified period, other than during training.
- Expenses related to this equipment
 - There were no new equipment costs.
 - There were no costs related to existing equipment.
 - Approximately \$1,100 from the Sheriff's existing FY 22/23 budget was spent on large caliber rifle instructor training. There were no other training costs as the training for this equipment is generally incorporated into existing SWAT team training.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- There is no current intent to seek additional 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 Sheriff's Office has 618 .223 caliber rifles and 12 .308 rifles, along with approximately 336,000 rounds of .223 caliber ammunition and approximately 59,000 rounds of .308 caliber ammunition. 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.
 - Seven of these .308 rifles are not deployed for enforcement purposes. They are only used by the Sheriff's Honor Guard for ceremonies, such as funerals.
 - The Sheriff's Office began reducing its inventory of the aging military surplus M16A1 rifles over the last year by returning 188 to the federal government and transferring ownership of five additional to the Ventura County Community College District Police Department. The intent is to return the remaining 71 military surplus M16A1 rifles to the federal government by 2024.
- Usage
 - 13 times a rifle was pointed at a potential suspect
 - 2 times utilized for ceremonies
 - There were no instances of a rifle being fired at a suspect during this specified period.
- Expenses related to this equipment
 - On April 26, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved Sheriff's Office Policy 709 on Military Equipment which allows for the Sheriff's Office to purchase ammunition as needed to meet department needs. \$78,486 was subsequently spent from the Sheriff's existing FY 22/23 budget to purchase 232,000 rounds of Federal .223 ammunition. This ammunition was received in 2022.
 - On December 12, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved the use of \$145,000 from the FY 22/23 state asset forfeiture funds to purchase of 60 Sionics SAR-15 rifles. These rifles are to be issued to patrol personnel in the continued effort to retire all the aging military surplus rifles. The new rifles were received in 2023.
 - Approximately \$550 was spent from the Sheriff's existing FY 22/23 budget on replacement batteries for rifle optics and other supplies for existing equipment.
 - Approximately \$43,700 from the Sheriff's existing FY 22/23 budget was spent on rifle training during the specified period. There were no additional costs associated as additional training for this equipment was incorporated into other existing training, range qualifications, etc.
- 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
 - The Sheriff's Office intends to request Board of Supervisors approval to use approximately \$96,000 from the Sheriff's FY 23/24 asset forfeiture accounts to purchase of 40 Sionics SAR-15 rifles. These rifles are to be

issued to patrol personnel in the continued effort to retire the remaining aging military surplus rifles.

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

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

Noise-flash diversionary devices and explosive breaching tools

- The Sheriff's SWAT team maintains several types of noise-flash diversionary devices (flash bangs) which produce a loud "bang" and white light to cause short-term physiological/psychological sensory deprivation in order to allow law enforcement members a tactical advantage during critical incidents such as high risk search warrants, arrests of armed and violent subjects, and hostage rescue. The SWAT team currently has 29 usable noise-flash diversionary devices in their inventory.
- Usage
 - Noise-flash diversionary devices were used two times during the specified period, other than during training.
- Expenses related to this equipment
 - There were no new equipment costs.
 - There were no costs related to existing equipment.
 - There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into existing SWAT team training.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- The Sheriff's Office intends to spend approximately \$1,500 from the Sheriff's FY 23/24 budget to purchase replacement equipment that has expired from this category.
- The Sheriff's Office does not use any other "explosive" breaching tools other than what is discussed above in the section titled, "Battering rams, slugs, and breaching apparatuses that are explosive in nature."

Chemical agents containing tear gas or OC, excluding standard, service-issued handheld pepper spray.

- The Sheriff's Office maintains several types of chemical agents which are less-lethal tools used to compel violent/armed and barricaded suspects to comply when circumstances are too hazardous for deputies to approach them. Chemical agents may also be used against members of riotous crowds to defend against a threat to life or serious bodily injury, or to bring an objectively dangerous and unlawful situation safely and effectively under control. The Sheriff's Office currently has 56 expired canisters containing chemical agents, along with 12 pepperball launchers and approximately 5,250 rounds of pepperball munitions.
- Usage

- Chemical agents were used one time during the specified period, other than training. The incident involved the use of a pepperball launcher against a confrontational/non-compliant individual.
- Expenses related to this equipment
 - There were no costs associated with existing equipment.
 - \$2,488 of FY 22/23 asset forfeiture funds were also used for chemical agent instructor training during 2023. There were no additional training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into existing SWAT team, Tactical Response Team, and Emergency Response Team training.
- 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
 - On April 26, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved Sheriff's Office Policy 709 on Military Equipment which allows for the Sheriff's Office to purchase chemical agents as needed to meet department needs. \$2,180 was subsequently allocated from the Sheriff's FY 22/23 asset forfeiture funds to purchase 55 canisters containing chemical agents. This is still in the procurement process.

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

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

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

- The Sheriff's Office currently has 32 40mm launchers, approximately 300 40mm impact sponge rounds, approximately 110 usable sponge rounds containing chemical agents, approximately 230 40mm projectiles containing 60 caliber rubber balls, and 27 stingball grenades that project rubber pellets. The Sheriff's Office also has 103 less-lethal shotguns and approximately 500 super-sock bean bag rounds. These are less lethal tools designed to be used from a distance in order to compel potentially violent suspects to cease dangerous actions and/or comply with arrest.
- The Sheriff's Office also has 30 simunition handguns, 55 simunition rifle conversion bolts, and approximately 13,500 rounds of simunition marking rounds. This equipment is not used for law enforcement purposes as it is designed for training purposes.
- Usage:
 - 15 times a 40mm launcher was pointed at a suspect
 - 2 times a 40mm launcher was fired at a suspect
 - 10 times a less-lethal bean bag shotgun was pointed at a suspect.
 - 1 time a less-lethal bean bag shotgun was fired at a suspect.
- Expenses related to this equipment

- On April 26, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved Sheriff's Office Policy 709 on Military Equipment which allows for the Sheriff's Office to purchase munitions as needed to meet department needs. \$3,759 of FY 22/23 asset forfeiture funds were subsequently used to purchase 160 40mm impact sponge rounds. The munitions were received during 2023.
- There were no costs associated with existing equipment.
- There were no costs associated with training as the training for this equipment was incorporated into other existing training, range qualifications, etc.
- 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
 - On April 26, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved Sheriff's Office Policy 709 on Military Equipment which allows for the Sheriff's Office to purchase less lethal munitions to meet department needs. With that in mind, \$16,400 was allocated from the Sheriff's existing FY 22/23 budget to purchase 2000 12 gauge bean bag rounds. This equipment is still in the procurement process.
 - On December 13, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved the use of \$22,000 from FY 22/23 state asset forfeiture funds for the purchase of 8 Defense Technology 40mm launchers. These launchers will be issued to the SWAT team and specialized teams who support patrol and investigative operations. The new launchers have not been received as they are still in procurement status.

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.