



Ventura County **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Jim Fryhoff - Sheriff | John Reilly - Undersheriff
800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009 | 805.654.2385 | VenturaSheriff.org



150
YEARS
OF SERVICE

June 27, 2023

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009

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; Approval, and Authorization for the Sheriff's Office to Use, Approximately \$98,695 in Funds Designated by the United States Department of Treasury Asset Forfeiture Trust Fund (N952-811W) to Purchase Items Designated by Ventura County Ordinance No. 4603 as Military Equipment; Approval of, and Authorization for the Sheriff or His Designee to Sign Agreements to Purchase Items Designated by Ventura County Ordinance No. 4603 as Military Equipment, Following Review and Approval by the County Executive Office and County Counsel. (RECOMMENDATION NO. 6 REQUIRES 4/5th VOTE).

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 (SWAT/Bomb robots), which are designated by Ventura County Ordinance No. 4603 as Military Equipment, at no cost to the Sheriff's Office during FY 2023/24.
4. Approve, and authorize the Sheriff to use approximately \$98,695 from the United States Department of Treasury Asset Forfeiture Trust Fund (N952-811W) to purchase 40 Sionics SAR-15 rifles, which are designated by Ventura County Ordinance No. 4603 as Military Equipment, during FY 2023/24.
5. Approve, and authorize the Sheriff or his designee to sign, any additional agreements required to purchase the aforementioned military equipment, following review and approval by the County Executive Office and County Counsel.
6. Authorize the Auditor-Controller's Office to process the necessary Fiscal Year 2023/24 budgetary adjustments to increase appropriations and unanticipated revenues (Requires 4/5ths vote).

INCREASE 2500-2529	Intergovernmental Revenues	\$98,695
INCREASE 2500-2529	Equipment 4601	\$98,695

Fiscal Impact Statement:

Mandatory: No
 Source of Funding: United States Department of Treasury Asset Forfeiture Trust Fund (N952-811W)
 Funding Match Required: None
 Impact on Other Departments:

<u>Summary of Revenues and Costs:</u>	<u>FY2022-23</u>	<u>FY2023-24</u>
Revenues:	\$	\$ 98,695
Costs		
Direct	\$	\$ 98,695
Indirect Dept.	\$ 0	\$ 0
Indirect - County CAP	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Costs	\$ 0	\$ 98,695
Net County Cost	\$ 0	\$ 0
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0

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, 2023, and annually thereafter so long as the military equipment is available for use. 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 and District Attorney's websites on May 25, 2023 and the meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2023 and will be completed prior to your Boards 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 2023/24. 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 13 unmanned ground vehicles (robots), but 8 are obsolete or damaged to the point they are no longer used. 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. In addition, the existing inoperable military surplus equipment will be returned to the federal government over the next year.

The Sheriff's Office requests that your Board authorize the use of approximately \$98,695 from the United States Department of Treasury Asset Forfeiture Trust Fund (N952-811W) to purchase 40 Sionics SAR-15 rifles during FY 2023/24. These are precision weapons intended to address a threat with more accuracy and 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. Prior to 2020, the Sheriff's Office primarily issued military surplus M16 rifles to those deputies assigned to patrol and additional specialized assignments. These rifles were procured through the Law Enforcement Support Office's military equipment surplus program. These are Vietnam era rifles that are heavy, cumbersome, and do not incorporate modern technology designed to keep deputies safe. In 2020, the Sheriff's Office reviewed several rifle variants and related accessories as potential replacements for the military surplus rifles. After careful consideration, the Sionics Weapons System Patrol Rifle was selected as the standard issue patrol rifle for the Sheriff's Office. These 40 rifles will supplement the current supply of Sionics rifles and provide a sufficient supply to issue new rifles to those deputies beginning their patrol training in FY 2023/24. The Sheriff's Office has returned 188 military surplus rifles to the federal government over the last six months and this purchase will support the continued transition away from the use of military surplus M16 rifles by the Sheriff's Office.

The United States Department of Treasury Asset Forfeiture Program allows authorized law enforcement agencies to receive a portion of funds seized from criminal organizations. The intent is to deprive wrongdoers of the proceeds of their crimes in order to compensate victims and deter crime. Permissible uses include the support of operations that may result in furthering law enforcement's goals and mission, training, facilities, supplies, equipment, and services.

This letter has been reviewed by the offices of the County Executive, County Counsel, General Services Agency and the Auditor Controller. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Commander Jeff Miller at 805-383-8784.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JF', written over a large, stylized circular scribble.

Jim Fryhoff
Sheriff

- Exhibit 1 – Sheriff's Military Equipment Annual Report
- Exhibit 2 – Sheriff's 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
- Exhibit 6 – Sionics Rifle Quote