



Kern County Sheriff's Office
Military Equipment Annual Report 2022-2023
November 1, 2023

On December 13, 2022, the Kern County Board of Supervisors adopted Kern County Ordinance G-9185 under 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 use "military equipment."

Ordinance G-9185 requires the Sheriff's Office to obtain Board of Supervisors approval before taking specific 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 G-9185, 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 G-9185 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 Board of Supervisors approved Sheriff's Office Military Equipment Use Policy J-4000, which allows the Sheriff's Office to purchase military equipment items outlined in this policy as needed to meet department needs.

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 Sheriff's Office Military Equipment Use Policy J-4000, 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 December 13, 2022, this report shall cover the period from December 14, 2022, through October 1, 2023.

Robots (Unmanned, Remotely Piloted, Powered Ground Vehicles)

- The Sheriff's Office currently has nine (9) unmanned ground vehicles (robots), but four (4) are obsolete or damaged to the point they are no longer used. This equipment is utilized by the Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad and Special Weapons and Tactics (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
 - Six (6) times for community events/demonstrations.
 - One (1) time for calls for service related to SWAT Operations.
 - Three (3) times for calls for service related to explosives/ordnance.
- Equipment Costs
 - There were no new costs related to this equipment.
 - There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into existing Bomb Squad 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.
- The Sheriff's Office intends to continue participating in the Law Enforcement military equipment surplus "1033 Program" and specifically seek out additional military surplus robots to improve the existing inventory utilized by the Sheriff's Bomb Squad. Military surplus items, such as unmanned, remotely piloted, powered ground vehicles, are provided for law enforcement at no cost to our agency. In addition, the existing inoperable "1033 Program" military surplus robots will be returned to the federal government over the next year.

Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)

- The Sheriff's Office currently has thirteen (13) unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). This equipment is utilized by the Sheriff's Bomb Squad 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 for search and rescue operations to assist personnel in rescuing individuals in dangerous conditions and locating missing persons. 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
 - Two (2) times for crime scene documentation.
 - Four (4) times for calls for service related to SWAT Operations.

- Six (6) times for calls for service in Patrol.
- Fourteen (14) times for Search and Rescue.
- Two (2) times to assist other departments related to flood monitoring.
- Equipment Costs
 - Approximately \$16,300 was used to purchase seven (7) drones (UAS) for FY 22-23.
 - There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into the existing Bomb Squad 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.
- The Sheriff's Office intends to purchase additional unmanned aerial systems from the existing 2023-2024 fiscal budget. The additional equipment will be purchased to replace damaged or inoperable equipment and increase operational capabilities. The additional equipment purchased will be provided in the 2023-2024 Military Equipment Annual Report.

Armored Vehicles

- The Sheriff's Office has two (2) Lenco armored vehicles. These vehicles are 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
 - Nine (9) times for community events/demonstrations.
 - Two (2) times for mutual aid requests from other local law enforcement agencies to assist with search warrants or barricaded subjects.
 - Eight (8) times for barricaded subjects, high-risk search warrants/operations.
- Equipment Costs
 - Approximately \$8535 was spent on service, repairs, and fuel for both Lenco Bearcats.
 - There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into the 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 request the Board of Supervisors' approval to purchase an additional Lenco Bearcat G3 for approximately \$402,900. The purchase of this armored vehicle is needed to replace the Lenco Bearcat G2 purchased in 2007. This vehicle is nearing the end of its expected life span and needs replacement to improve maintenance and reliability issues. The current build time for a new Lenco Bearcat G3 is approximately one (1) year, and we are

requesting to purchase this vehicle during the 2023-2024 fiscal budget year to account for the extended buildout time.

NIJ Level IV Armored Caterpillar (CAT) Multi-Terrain Loader (The ROOK)

- The Sheriff's Office has one (1) 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 shield, hydraulic breaching ram, a grapple claw, and a vehicle extraction tool. The ROOK may be utilized during SWAT or Bomb Unit deployments when there is a need for its defensive ballistic protection, rescue platform, and 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
 - One (1) time for mutual aid requests from other local law enforcement agencies to assist with search warrants or barricaded suspects.
 - Two (2) times for barricaded subjects or high-risk search warrants.
- Equipment Costs
 - There were no new costs related to this equipment.
 - Approximately \$112.00 was spent on fuel for existing equipment. There were no costs for service or repairs as it is still under the manufacturer's warranty.
 - There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into the 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

- The Sheriff's Office utilizes three (3) command and control vehicles, including the Bomb Squad response vehicle, the Crisis Negotiations Team vehicle, and the SWAT equipment vehicle. These vehicles are deployed during critical incidents, search and rescue operations, and pre-staged events to transport specialized equipment, provide a mobile office, shelter, and access to Sheriff's Office computer systems.
- Usage
 - Bomb Squad Response Vehicle
 - Seven (7) times for community events/demonstrations.
 - Twenty-four (24) times for calls related to explosives/ordnance.
 - Three (3) times for SWAT callouts related to barricaded subjects/high-risk search warrants or operations.
 - Crisis Negotiations Team Vehicle
 - Five (5) times for community events/demonstrations.

- Three (3) times to assist SWAT with barricaded subjects/high-risk search warrants or operations.
 - SWAT Equipment Vehicle
 - The vehicle was not deployed to any SWAT-related incidents.
- Equipment Costs
 - There were no new costs related to this equipment.
 - Approximately \$13,282 was spent on service, repairs, and fuel for all command-and-control vehicles.
- 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 request the Board of Supervisors approval to purchase a pull-behind trailer to be utilized as a command-and-control vehicle for approximately \$190,000 from the 2023-2024 fiscal budget. The command-and-control trailer will be used as a mobile incident command post during critical incidents, search and rescue operations, and pre-staged events.

40 MM Launchers and Rounds

- The Sheriff's Office currently has seventy-six (76) 40mm single-launchers, seven (7) 40mm multi-launchers, 1119 exact impact 40mm rounds, and ninety-six (96) direct impact OC rounds. The Sheriff's Office also has 127 Ferret 40mm liquid CS rounds, seventy (70) Ferret 40mm powder OC rounds, three (3) Ferret 40mm powder inert rounds, ten (10) 40mm CS muzzle blast rounds, twelve (12) 40mm .32 caliber rubber balls rounds, and forty-three (43) 40mm multiple wooden baton rounds. These launchers are less lethal tools designed to be used from a distance to compel potentially violent suspects to cease dangerous actions and/or comply with arrest.
- Usage
 - Two (2) times a 40mm launcher was fired at a suspect.
 - Zero (0) times a 40mm chemical agent round was deployed.
- Equipment Costs
 - Approximately \$36,210 from the Sheriff's Office fiscal year 2022-2023 budget was spent on purchasing additional 40mm single launchers and 40mm exact impact rounds. These launchers are to be issued to trained Sheriff's Office personnel in the continued effort to provide additional less-lethal tools to assist in de-escalation and to replace aging or broken equipment.
 - There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into existing department 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.
- The Sheriff's Office intends to purchase an additional twenty (20) 40mm launchers and approximately 250 exact impact 40mm rounds from the existing 2023-2024

fiscal budget. The additional 40mm launchers and rounds will be purchased for issuance to new employees and/or replacement of broken/damaged equipment. The actual number of 40mm launchers and rounds purchased will be provided in the 2023-2024 Military Equipment Annual Report.

Less Lethal Launchers and Munitions

- The Sheriff's Office currently has forty-eight (48) FN 303 launchers, eighteen (18) FTC PepperBall launchers, and eleven (11) PepperBall Custom Carbines. The Sheriff's Office also has 495 FN 303 indelible yellow paint projectiles, 885 FN 303 Pava/OC projectiles, 1075 FN 303 clear impact projectiles, 1875 PepperBall inert projectiles, 13,250 PepperBall live projectiles, and 375 PepperBall Live-X projectiles. These launchers are less lethal tools designed to be used from a distance to compel potentially violent suspects to cease dangerous actions and/or comply with arrest.
- Usage
 - Twenty-three (23) times a FN 303 or PepperBall less lethal launcher was fired at a suspect.
- Equipment Costs
 - There were no new costs related to this equipment.
 - There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into existing SWAT and SERT 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 SWAT and SERT teams intend to purchase additional less lethal launchers and munitions from the 2023-2024 fiscal budget to meet needed inventory requirements. The actual number of lethal launchers and munitions purchased will be provided in the 2023-2024 Military Equipment Annual Report.

Grenade Launching Cups

- The Sheriff's Office currently has seventeen (17) grenade launching cups. Grenade launching cups are devices designed to attach to the muzzle of a shotgun. They are used to deploy various types of less lethal or special-purpose munitions during crowd control, riot control, and other situations where less-lethal force is required.
- Usage
 - There were no instances of a grenade launching cup utilized during this period.
- Equipment Costs
 - There were no new costs related to this 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.
- There is no current intent to seek additional equipment in this category.

Distraction Devices (Noise Flash Diversionary Devices)

- The Sheriff's Office SWAT and SERT teams currently have twenty-five (25) low-roll reloadable body distraction devices, twenty-two (22) multi-port reloadable body distraction devices, thirty-three (33) distraction device 12-gram reloads, and one (1) Low Roll Distraction Device Reloadable Training Body. Distraction devices produce a loud "bang" and white light to cause short-term physiological/psychological sensory overload. SWAT and SERT teams utilize distraction devices to provide a tactical advantage during critical incidents such as high-risk search warrants, arrests of armed and violent subjects, and hostage rescues.
- Usage
 - One (1) time a noise flash diversionary device was used during the service of a high-risk search warrant by SWAT.
- Equipment Costs
 - There were no new costs related to this equipment.
 - There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into existing SWAT and SERT 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 SWAT and SERT teams intend to purchase additional distraction devices from the existing 2023-2024 fiscal budget to meet needed inventory requirements. The actual number of distraction devices purchased will be provided in the 2023-2024 Military Equipment Annual Report.

Rifles

- The Sheriff's Office currently has 341 .223 caliber rifles and nine (9) .308 caliber rifles. These are precision weapons intended to address a deadly threat with more accuracy from a greater distance than a handgun, such as an encounter with an armed barricaded suspect. They also provide greater penetration of soft body armor than a handgun.
- Usage
 - One (1) time a .223 rifle was fired at a suspect during this period.
- Equipment Costs
 - Approximately \$60,960 from the Sheriff's Office fiscal year 2022-2023 budget was spent on the purchase of additional forty-seven (47) .223 caliber rifles.
 - Approximately \$9,600 was also spent from the fiscal year 2022-2023 budget on the purchase of two (2) additional .308 rifles.

- There were no additional costs associated as additional training for this equipment was incorporated into existing training and range qualifications.
- 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 purchase approximately sixty-five (65) additional .223 caliber rifles and rifle optics from the existing 2023-2024 fiscal budget. The Board of Supervisors approved and provided the Sheriff's Office \$90,000 for this purchase. The additional rifles will be purchased in a continued effort to provide trained deputies with precision weapons to address threats with greater accuracy.

Chemical Agent and Smoke Canisters

- The Sheriff's Office maintains several types of chemical agents and smoke canisters, 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 and smoke canisters may also be used against members of riotous crowds and jail-related riots 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 approximately 300 expired chemical agent and smoke canisters that will be removed from inventory and only utilized for training purposes.
- Usage
 - There were no instances of chemical agents or smoke canisters being utilized during this specific period.
- Equipment Costs
 - There were no new costs related to this equipment.
 - There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into existing SWAT and SERT 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 SWAT and SERT teams intend to purchase additional chemical agents and smoke canisters from the existing 2023-2024 fiscal budget to meet needed inventory requirements. The actual number of chemical agents and smoke canisters purchased will be provided in the 2023-2024 Military Equipment Annual Report.

Explosive Breaching Tools

- The Sheriff's Office has an inventory of specialized 12-gauge rounds and explosive materials utilized to breach doors, windows, and other locking components. This equipment is used by the Bomb Squad and SWAT team to breach doors, walls, and/or windows to provide a tactical advantage quickly and effectively during critical incidents.
- Usage

- There were no instances of 12-gauge breaching rounds or explosive materials being utilized during this period.
- Equipment Costs
 - There were no new costs related to this equipment.
 - There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into existing Bomb Squad 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.
- The Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad intends to purchase additional explosive breaching tools from the existing 2023-2024 fiscal budget to meet needed inventory requirements. The actual number of explosive breaching tools purchased will be provided in the 2023-2024 Military Equipment Annual Report.

Bell OH-58+

- The Sheriff's Office currently has 2 Bell OH-58+ Helicopters, but one (1) is obsolete or damaged to the point it is no longer used. The Sheriff's Office utilizes this equipment for law enforcement, air support, search and rescue operations, and locating subjects.
- Usage
 - 185.4 total flight hours (for only N497E Bell OH-58+; N397E not in use)
- Equipment Costs
 - There were no new costs related to this equipment.
 - There were no additional training costs for these helicopters.
- 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 continue participating in the Law Enforcement military equipment surplus "1033 Program." Military surplus items, such as these two (2) Bell OH-58+ Helicopters, were provided for law enforcement at no cost to our agency. The existing inoperable "1033 Program" military surplus helicopters will be returned to the federal government over the next year.

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

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