



Kern County Sheriff's Office
Military Equipment Annual Report 2025
March 9, 2026

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 public and officer safety. 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 will make each annual military equipment report publicly available on its website as long as the equipment is in use. Additionally, a community engagement meeting will be held at least 30 days after the report is posted on the website. Additionally, there will be a notification on the Sheriff's Office website of when the community engagement meeting will be held. The report will include the following information for the previous calendar year:

1. A summary of how the military equipment was used and the purpose of 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, including acquisition, personnel, training, transportation, maintenance, storage, upgrade, and other ongoing costs, and from what source funds will be provided for the military equipment in the calendar year following submission of the annual military equipment report.
5. The quantity possessed for each type of military equipment.
6. If the KCSO intends to acquire additional military equipment in the next year, the quantity sought for each type of military equipment.
7. Within 30 days of submitting and publicly releasing an annual military equipment report, the KCSO shall hold at least one well-publicized and conveniently located community engagement meeting, at which the general public may discuss and ask questions regarding the annual military equipment report and the KCSO's funding, acquisition, or use of military equipment.

This report shall cover the period from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

Robots (Unmanned, Remotely Piloted, Powered Ground Vehicles)

- The Sheriff's Office currently has ten (10) 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 in many ways, including:
 - To remotely gain visual/audio data
 - Carry equipment/open doors in unsafe areas
 - Clear buildings without exposing deputies to hazardous/dangerous situations.
 - To assist in high-risk situations such as searches for wanted subjects, barricaded subjects, and hostage rescues
 - To inspect hazardous materials, possible explosive devices, and other hazardous situations.
 - Facilitate disposal of hazardous devices/materials
 - Communication by using the two-way audio system
- Usage
 - Fourteen (14) times for community events/demonstrations.
 - Seven (7) times for calls for service related to SWAT Operations.
 - Two (2) times for calls for service related to explosives/ordinance.
- Equipment Costs
 - \$24,264 was used to purchase a battery upgrade/adaptor for the Bomb Squad HD-SEL robot. This upgrade was necessary to keep the robot in service because the old/worn-out batteries are no longer manufactured.
 - 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

Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)

- The Sheriff's Office currently has twenty-nine (29) unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). This equipment is utilized by the Sheriff's Office in many different ways, including:
 - Search and rescue operations to assist in locating missing persons and coordinating rescue efforts in dangerous conditions.
 - During high-risk situations such as searches for wanted subjects, barricaded subjects, and hostage rescues.

- To remotely inspect hazardous materials, possible explosive devices, and other hazardous situations.
- Document crime scenes in great detail from an aerial perspective.
- Provide real-time visual information to a Command Post during critical incidents, including natural disasters or law enforcement operations.
- Usage
 - Sixty-eight (68) times for assisting Patrol.
 - Seventeen (17) times for crime scene documentation.
 - Nine (9) times for Search and Rescue operations.
 - Seven (7) times for assisting allied agencies.
 - Four (4) times for assisting SWAT operations.
- Equipment Costs
 - Approximately \$57,850 was used to purchase nine (9) drones (UAS) during this period
 - \$49 was spent to replace a drone that was shot by a suspect during a SWAT operation.
 - \$171.09 was spent to replace a drone damaged in a crash.
 - Approximately \$1,302 was used from the FY 24-25 budget to purchase accessories such as anti-collision lights, memory cards, battery chargers, and batteries.
 - There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into the existing Bomb Squad, SWAT, and UAS team budgets.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.

Armored Vehicles

- The Sheriff's Office has two (2) Lenco Bearcat (G2 and G3) 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
 - Twelve (12) times for community events/demonstrations.
 - Four (4) times for mutual aid requests from other local law enforcement agencies to assist with search warrants or barricaded subjects.
 - Six (6) times for barricaded subjects, high-risk search warrants/operations.
 - Seven (7) times as a standby react team for large, populated events.
- Equipment Costs
 - Approximately \$38,265 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 personnel complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no claims to the Civil Litigation Unit regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- The Sheriff's Office purchased an additional Lenco Bearcat G3 for approximately \$402,900 during the 2023-2024 FY. 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 lifespan and needs replacement to improve maintenance and reliability issues. The current build time for the new Lenco Bearcat G3 is over one (1) year, and the Sheriff's Office is still waiting for it to be built and delivered.

NIJ Level IV Armored Caterpillar (CAT) Multi-Terrain Loader (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, a 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
 - Two (2) times for mutual aid requests from other local law enforcement agencies to assist with search warrants or barricaded suspects.
 - Six (6) times for barricaded subjects or high-risk search warrants.
- Equipment Costs
 - Approximately \$1190.94 was spent on service, repairs, and fuel for the ROOK.
 - There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into the existing SWAT team training.
- There were multiple claims made to the Civil Litigation Unit claiming damages to a residence by the ROOK during a SWAT callout. Additional claims from the incident range from property damage to sprinklers and fences as well as damage to vehicles in the area that were used by SWAT to place gear on.¹
- There were no personnel complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.

¹ Details related to the civil claims for damages caused during the SWAT callout were documented under case number 2025-00055223.

- There is no current intent to seek additional equipment in this category.

Command-and-Control Vehicles

- The Sheriff's Office utilizes four (4) command and control vehicles, including the Bomb Squad response vehicle, the Crisis Negotiations Team vehicle, the command post trailer, and the SWAT equipment vehicle. These vehicles are deployed during critical incidents and search and rescue operations, and pre-staged at planned events to transport specialized equipment, provide a mobile office, and provide access to the Sheriff's Office computer systems.
- Usage
 - Bomb Squad Response Vehicle
 - Fourteen (14) times for community events/demonstrations.
 - Four (4) times for calls related to explosives/ordinance.
 - Seven (7) times for SWAT callouts related to barricaded subjects/high-risk search warrants or operations.
 - Crisis Negotiations Team Vehicle
 - Ten (10) times for community events/demonstrations.
 - Five (5) times to assist SWAT with barricaded subjects/high-risk search warrants or operations.
 - SWAT Equipment Vehicle
 - The vehicle was not deployed.
 - Pull Behind Command Post Trailer.
 - This vehicle was purchased during the 2023-2024 FY for approximately \$137,417.00. This vehicle was received in 2025. It was used three (3) times as a command post for large, populated events. It was used once (1) to assist the Lerdo detention facilities during an internet outage. It was used one (1) time to assist with a barricaded subject/high-risk search warrant or operation.
- Equipment Costs
 - Approximately \$5,493.82 was spent on service, repairs, and fuel for all command-and-control vehicles.
- There were no personnel complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no claims to the Civil Litigation Unit regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.

40 MM Launchers and Rounds

- The Sheriff's Office currently has 106 40MM single-shot launchers, twelve (12) 40MM pump multi-launchers, 332 exact impact sponge 40MM rounds, and sixteen (16) direct impact OC rounds. The Sheriff's Office also has 130 Ferret 40MM liquid barricade CS, eighteen (18) 37/40MM .32 caliber rubber balls, and 81 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
 - 144 exact impact sponge rounds were given to the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office for a mutual aid request.
 - Twenty-six (26) times 40MM Liquid barricade CS used during callouts.
 - Seven (7) times a 40MM chemical agent round was deployed during a SWAT operation.
- Equipment Costs
 - Eleven (11) deputies attended the Less Lethal Instructor course; refer to the "Less Lethal Launchers and Munitions" section for training costs.
 - SERT spent \$4,721.87 on the purchase of one 40MM pump multi-launcher.
- There were no personnel complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no claims to the Civil Litigation Unit regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- The Sheriff's Office SWAT team intends to purchase additional CTS 40MM less-lethal rounds to replenish inventory.

Less Lethal Launchers and Munitions

- The Sheriff's Office currently has forty-eight (48) FN 303 launchers, twenty-six (26) FTC PepperBall launchers, eleven (11) PepperBall Custom Carbines, and two (2) PepperBall VKS Carbines. The Sheriff's Office also has 135 FN 303 indelible yellow paint projectiles, 1,830 FN 303 Pava/OC projectiles, 630 FN 303 clear impact projectiles, 2,775 PepperBall inert projectiles, 10,545 PepperBall live projectiles, 3,185 PepperBall Live-X projectiles, 420 FN 303 inert projectiles, 250 PepperBall VKS inert projectiles, and 200 PepperBall VKS 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
 - Ten (10) times a FN 303 less lethal launcher was fired at a suspect.
- Equipment Costs
 - Approximately \$1,222.50 dollars was spent on FN 303 PAVA/OC Powder Projectile rounds.
 - Approximately \$1,782.92 dollars was spent on FN 303 Inert Projectile rounds.
 - Approximately \$1,248.74 dollars was spent on PepperBall Live-X Projectile rounds.
 - Approximately \$464 dollars was spent on PepperBall VKS Inert Projectile rounds.

- Approximately \$1,296 dollars was spent on PepperBall VKS Live-X Projectile rounds.
- 1 Detention Deputy attended a PepperBall Instructor Course, totaling \$1,127.70 dollars.
- 11 Deputies attended a Less Lethal Instructor Course, totaling \$5,465.14.
- There were no personnel complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no claims to the Civil Litigation Unit 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 2025-2026 FY to meet needed inventory requirements. The actual number of lethal launchers and munitions purchased will be provided in the 2026 Military Equipment Annual Report

Grenade Launching Cups

- The Sheriff's Office currently has sixteen (16) 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 new training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into existing SWAT team training.
- There were no personnel complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no claims to the Civil Litigation Unit 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-nine (29) low-roll reloadable body distraction devices, five (5) multi-port reloadable body distraction devices, 65 distraction device 12-gram reloads, two (2) distraction device 4-gram reloads, and 88 Royal arms FBG-MK4 flash bang trainers. 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
 - Two (2) instances, a noise flash diversionary device was used during the service of a high-risk search warrant by SWAT.
 - Two (2) instances, a noise flash diversionary device was used to assist allied agencies.
- Equipment Costs
 - SERT spent approximately \$1,348.70 on NFDD reloads.
 - There were no new training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into existing SWAT and SERT team training.
- There were no personnel complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no claims to the Civil Litigation Unit 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 to meet needed inventory requirements. The actual number of distraction devices purchased will be provided in the 2026 Military Equipment Annual Report.

Rifles

- The Sheriff's Office currently has 372 .223 caliber rifles, 32 5.56mm caliber rifles, and eight (8) .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 rifle was fired at a suspect during this period.
- Equipment Costs
 - The Sheriff's Office purchased 12 Colt M-4 Carbine rifles in 2025, totaling \$12907.12. These rifles were not received or inventoried in 2025 and will be included in the 2026 Military Equipment Annual Report.
- There were no personnel complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no claims to the Civil Litigation Unit regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.

Chemical Agent and Smoke Canisters

- The Sheriff's Office currently has 464 chemical agents 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. Approximately 58 chemical agents and smoke canisters will be removed from inventory under AB 481 and will be used only for training purposes.
- Usage
 - There were three (3) instances of chemical agents or smoke canisters being utilized during this specific period. These instances were related to SWAT operations when dealing with barricaded/uncooperative suspects.²
- Equipment Costs
 - SWAT spent \$1,950 on replacing its inventory of chemical agents.
 - SERT spent \$2,135.97 on replacing its inventory of chemical agents.
 - There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into the existing SWAT and SERT team training.
- There were no personnel complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no claims to the Civil Litigation Unit regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.

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 quickly and effectively breach doors, walls, and/or windows to gain tactical advantage during critical incidents.
- Usage
 - One (1) incident that used two (2) BK-90 and one (1) BK-110, 12-gauge rounds from a ground robot platform during a search of suspicious packages left in front of a building belonging to the California Highway Patrol.
 - There were no instances of explosive breaching materials being utilized during this period outside of training.

² These instances are detailed in Sheriff's Office case numbers 2025-00046104, 2025-00055223, and 2025-00161000.

- Equipment Costs
 - \$4543.02 was used to purchase Detcord (Primacord) and Detasheet (AESFLEX Sheet) explosives to be used in explosive breaching.
 - 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.
- There were no new purchases of explosive breaching tools during the 2024-2025 fiscal budget.
- The Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad intends to purchase additional explosive breaching tools from the 2025-2026 fiscal budget to meet needed inventory requirements. The actual number of explosive breaching tools purchased will be provided in the 2026 Military Equipment Annual Report.

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

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

Auditing

- In February 2026, the Sheriff's Office completed a less-lethal audit. This audit covered the following less-lethal force options:
 - OC spray
 - FN 303 launchers
 - CS gas
 - PepperBall launchers
 - 40mm launchers
- Auditors reviewed which Sheriff's Office members had been assigned or in possession of the listed less-lethal force options and if those members were properly trained.
- Findings in the audit confirm that all but two (2) Sheriff's Office personnel in possession of a less-lethal option had been properly trained in that option. It was believed that the personnel had received initial training to possess 40mm launchers, but the proper documentation of the training was not recorded or received by the Sheriff's Office Training Section. This was addressed by having the two (2) personnel members return their 40mm launcher to the Sheriff's Office Property Room until they could take the training again.
- To ensure all this does not occur in the future, the Compliance and Standards Division issued the following action items to correct how equipment is issued:
 - Having the Property Room Unit and Training Section staff coordinate advance preparation, so employees receive equipment from the property

room before training. After training, completion rosters are distributed to these units to ensure personnel have successfully completed the training. SWAT, SERT, and the Property Room Unit will coordinate with the Training Section before issuing any less-lethal equipment.

- The Training Section and Property Room Unit conduct an annual audit of training and equipment records and submit their findings to the Professional Standards Unit by April 1 each year.
- By implementing corrective actions and strengthening coordination between units, sections, and divisions, the Sheriff's Office has taken proactive steps to maintain accountability and ensure all personnel are properly trained to carry these specified less-lethal force options.