

SCOTTS VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT
2023 AB 481 ANNUAL REPORT



Chief Stephen Walpole

April 9th, 2024



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AB 481 Military Equipment Use Compliance Requirements:

- Approval of the Military Equipment Use Policy (Completed 5/2022 Policy #706)
- Approval of the Military Equipment Use Ordinance (Completed 5/2022 Ord. # 22-200)
- Publishing the Policy (Completed 5/2022)
- Annual Report

Annual Report:

In 2022, Assembly Bill 481 required all California Law Enforcement to declare any equipment categorized as Military Equipment. Furthermore, agencies were required to get permission from their governing bodies to possess and utilize that equipment. The Scotts Valley Police abided by the law and obtained permission to utilize two items on the list. In addition, AB 481 requires all agencies to provide an annual report to their governing body and open to public viewing.

Items deemed to be “military equipment” by AB 481 are used as a component of overall best practices for Law Enforcement throughout the country. These tools have been tested in the field, and are used by officers to enhance citizen safety and officer safety. Loss of these items would jeopardize the welfare of citizens and SVPD officers.

Officers are trained on all department issued equipment before utilizing the equipment in the field. Officers receiving the equipment undergo training on the nomenclature, functionality, and risks associated with the use of the equipment. Furthermore, officers are required to requalify annually.

Officers must comply with mandated training as regulated by Federal, State and Local statutes. Most of the training is managed and administered by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), which sets minimum training standard for California law enforcement officers.

AB 481 requires six elements to be included in the annual report for each type of equipment, which are outlined below.



2023 AB 481 ANNUAL REPORT

1) Summary of how each type of equipment was used and the purpose of that use:

The Scotts Valley Police Department received approval to use Category 10 - Specialized Firearms (AR-15 .223 patrol rifle) and Category 14 -Kinetic Energy Weapons (Remington 870 shotgun converted to “less-lethal” only).

There were no use-of-force incidents involving rifles or less-lethal shotguns.

Rifles and Less-Lethal Shotguns were used during the annual rifle range and qualification training dates in January 2023.



Rifles and Less-Lethal shotguns were used during the following:

Execution of a search warrant involving an armed prohibited person.

Execution of two search warrants involving illegal firearms.

Eviction of a person squatting on private property, who made violent threats to police.

No rifles or shotguns were fired during the deployment.



2) Quantity possessed of each type of equipment:

The department currently has 16 patrol rifles and 5 less-lethal shotguns in our inventory.



2023 AB 481 ANNUAL REPORT

3) Annual costs for each type of equipment, “including acquisition, personnel, training, transportation, maintenance, storage, upgrade, and other ongoing costs”:

City Council approved \$3800 to purchase two new Colt AR-15 rifles to replace two outdated existing Bushmaster rifles. The new rifles were purchased in May 2023.

Officers completed an eight-hour rifle and less-lethal shotgun training and qualification in January 2023. The ammunition for this training was \$1200.

4) Summary of complaints or concerns received for each type of equipment:

There were no complaints or concerns received.

5) Information disclosing violations of military equipment policies and actions taken in response, as well as result of internal audits:

There were no violations of Scotts Valley Police Lexipol policy 706, Military Equipment.

6) Plans to acquire additional military equipment in the coming year, and the quantity sought:

SVPD currently has 10 Bushmaster AR-15 rifles and 6 Colt AR-15 rifles. The Bushmaster rifles were purchased in 2010, and several are in need of replacement due to prolonged use and wear. In 2023, we received approval from City Council to replace two Bushmaster rifles with two new Colt rifles. The two Bushmaster rifles were taken out of service and destroyed, so the number of rifles in our inventory remained the same.

In 2024, we are proposing to replace the last two remaining outdated Bushmaster rifles with two new Colt rifles. The two Bushmaster rifles will be taken out of service and destroyed, so the number of rifles in our inventory will remain the same. The total cost of the two new Colt rifles completely outfitted with sling, Aimpoint optic, and tactical light will be \$3,792.26.