Weapons

Weapons to be carried by sworn officers of this Department shall be those issued or approved by the Department.

A. Issued Handguns.
   1. Police employees will be provided with either a Glock Model 17, 19 or 26 and related equipment upon request by the employee. When providing an employee with a firearm the Department may consider the employee’s assignment, availability of Department firearms and best handgun grip fit for the employee.
   2. Department handguns may be carried off duty. Suitable precautions shall be taken by the officer to secure the weapon against unauthorized access.
   3. Department handguns shall not be modified from their issued condition without authorization.
   4. Department handguns will be tagged with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag.
   5. Officers are responsible for the security and maintenance of handguns. Officers shall report damage or failures in functioning to a Department Armorer and their immediate supervisor.

B. Personally owned handguns – On Duty.
   1. Officer’s may elect to carry a personally-owned Glock Model 17, 19, 26, 34, or 43 handgun on duty provided it has been inspected and its use documented by the Training Section in the Department firearms record.
   2. The Department will not reimburse personnel who purchase or replace personally-owned weapons.

C. Personally owned handguns – Off Duty.
   1. Officers may elect to carry a personally owned handgun off duty providing it is a semi-automatic 9mm pistol, is capable of being fired without being cocked, has been approved, inspected and documented in the officer’s Department File by the Training Section.
   2. A police officer is not permitted to carry or use under law enforcement authority any firearm with which the officer has not qualified during their most recent qualification period.

D. Holsters.
   1. The Department will provide an approved security holster for uniformed use.
   2. The Department will provide a holster for plainclothes use.
   3. If personnel elect to purchase and utilize a handgun light, they must also obtain and use a security holster that allows the light to remain on the handgun while in the holster.

E. Ammunition.
   1. Ammunition for service, scheduled training and qualification will be provided by the Department.
   2. Only ammunition issued by the Department may be carried.
   3. Approved for Duty-Handgun:
F. Handgun Lights.

1. Personnel may elect to equip their handgun with an approved tactical light for the purpose of illuminating a potential target.

2. Personnel using a tactical handgun light are required to train annually with and without the light in low/no light situations.

3. Personnel using a tactical handgun light must have a flashlight available at all times.

4. The Department will provide batteries for approved handgun mounted lights.

G. Inspection.

1. All weapons are subject to inspection at any time. Officers shall report damage or failures in functioning of any weapon to the appropriate Department Armorer and their immediate supervisor. The weapon will be removed from service until it has been repaired.

2. Alterations not mentioned in policy are not approved, including laser sighting devices on handguns or rifles.

H. Utilization. The Training Section shall conduct an annual utilization audit and inventory of the Department’s firearms.

I. Rifles.

1. Sworn personnel may be issued an individually assigned Colt or DPMS .223 or 9mm rifle depending on their assignment and availability of rifles. Officers issued rifles must complete the Department rifle issuance form prior to removal of the rifle from the Department. Individually assigned rifles will be sighted in by the assigned officer.

2. Department squad cars assigned to Patrol, used for a patrol assignment, or utilized for a special event shall be equipped with a rifle from a pool of rifles or the operating officer’s individually assigned rifle.

3. Officers are responsible for the security and maintenance of individually assigned rifles. Officers shall use caution when identifying and selecting an adequate storage location for their assigned rifle when not at the Department. Safety locks will be provided upon request.
4. Individually assigned rifles must be secured in the Department Armory except while being used on duty or being used while attending Department sanctioned training. When a rifle is needed at the range by a firearms instructor or designee.

5. Rifles being checked in or out of the Armory will be tagged with a RFID tag.

6. Department rifles will be tagged with a RFID tag.

7. Rifle cases will be available in the Armory for officers to use while transporting individually assigned rifles to training.

J. Firearms Control.

1. Firearms, whether owned by an officer or the department, will be in the control of an officer or properly secured.

2. If an unsecured firearm is discovered by a police officer, he/she will secure it. If discovered by non-sworn personnel, the staff member will contact a police officer.

3. Only on-duty, sworn personnel on official business may carry firearms into the Dane County Courthouse. Armed personnel accessing the Courthouse must be in uniform or if in plain clothes, display Department photo identification.

Reviewed 04/14
Revised 05/17