



AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

Meeting Date: March 12, 2024

Subject Adopt Ordinance No. 2023-489 approving Los Altos Police Policy 709 pertaining to the funding, acquisition, and use of military equipment as mandated by Assembly Bill 481.

Prepared by: Katie Krauss, Captain
Reviewed by: Angela Averiett, Chief of Police
Approved by: Jon Maginot, Assistant City Manager

Attachment(s):

1. AB 481 Annual Report 2023
2. Los Altos Police Policy 709
3. 40MM Sponge Round Specs
4. UAS Acquisition Report
5. Ordinance No. 2023-489

Initiated by:

Police Department, per requirements of Assembly Bill 481

Previous Council Consideration:

September 20, 2022

March 14, 2023

April 11, 2023

February 28, 2024

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund.

Environmental Review:

This Ordinance is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) of the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, Chapter 3 of the California Code of Regulations) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonable foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378 of the CEQA Guidelines because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to environment, directly or indirectly).



Subject: AB 481 Military Equipment Use Annual Report

Policy Question(s) for Council Consideration:

1. Does the Council wish to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-489 approving Los Altos Police Policy 709 pertaining to the funding, acquisition, and use of military equipment as mandated by Assembly Bill 481?

Summary:

- California Assembly Bill 481 requires the Los Altos Police Department to report annually on the inventory, procurement, use and misuse of covered military equipment items. The Annual Report also includes a description of new military equipment the police department seeks City Council approval for acquisition and funding for.
- Within a year of the initial approval, and at least annually thereafter, the City Council will review this ordinance and related resolutions. The City Council may, by resolution, make amendments, modifications or revisions to the military equipment use policy adopted by the Los Altos Police Department. The ordinance must be reviewed and renewed annually.

Staff Recommendation:

- Staff recommends Council adopt Ordinance No. 2023-489 approving Los Altos Police Policy 709 pertaining to the funding, acquisition, and use of military equipment as mandated by Assembly Bill 481

Purpose

To adopt the Ordinance approving Los Altos Police Policy 709 pertaining to the funding, acquisition, and use of military equipment as mandated by Assembly Bill 481.

Background

On September 30, 2021, Governor Newsom signed a series of eight (8) policing reform legislation aimed at increasing transparency of peace officer misconduct records and creates a system to decertify peace officers for serious misconduct, improving policing responsibility and accountability guidelines, raising eligibility standards, banning harmful restraint techniques, and creates a public forum for the funding, acquisition and use of military equipment. Assembly Bill 481 (AB 481) was authored by Assemblymember David Chiu (D-San Francisco) to address the funding, acquisition and use of military equipment.

California Government Section 7071 requires a law enforcement agency’s military equipment policy, which includes the type of equipment the department may acquire and use, to be approved by the governing body. “Military equipment” is not related to whether or not the equipment was acquired through military sources. The Los Altos Police Department does not possess any equipment specifically designed for military use, nor has the department acquired any equipment through a military surplus program, commonly known as the 1033 Program. Our “military equipment” is included in the attached policy under inventory, and includes items such



Subject: AB 481 Military Equipment Use Annual Report

as patrol rifles, several less lethal force options, and training flash bangs utilized as diversionary devices by our SWAT team.

As part of the approval process outlined in Assembly Bill 481, the initial proposed military equipment policy was made available on the department website (Government Code § 7071). The police department also hosted a community meeting to discuss AB 481 on May 12th, 2022. The Military Equipment Use Policy was presented to Council on September 20, 2022 and was approved with minor amendments. The 2022 Annual Report, a requirement of AB 481, was presented to citizens at a Town Hall meeting on February 8, 2023. It went before Council on March 14, 2023 and Ordinance No. 2023-489 was adopted on April 11, 2023. The 2023 Annual Report was published on the Department webpage on February 8, 2024 prior to the public meeting (City Council Meeting) on February 27, 2024.

Discussion/Analysis

California Assembly Bill 481, signed into law on September 30, 2021, requires police agencies to obtain City Council approval by the adoption of a military equipment use policy prior to taking certain actions relating to the funding, acquisition, or use of military equipment as defined by the legislature. The bill requires an annual report to the governing board regarding the military equipment. If an agency wishes to acquire additional equipment that is defined as military equipment, they must receive Council approval. The policy/ordinance governing military equipment use must be reviewed and renewed annually.

Recommendation

Staff recommends Council adopt Ordinance No. 2023-489 approving Los Altos Police Policy 709 pertaining to the funding, acquisition, and use of military equipment as mandated by Assembly Bill 481.