

# Blythe Police Department

---

## AB 481 Annual Military Equipment Report

Assembly Bill 481 (“AB 481”), codified at Sections 7070 through 7075 of the California Government Code, requires law enforcement agencies to obtain approval from their governing bodies of military equipment use policies before purchasing, raising funds for, or acquiring military equipment. This initial policy must be passed via ordinance and reviewed and renewed by the governing body each year. AB 481 provides an expansive definition of “military equipment” that includes many items which law enforcement agencies use, deploy, and obtain on a regular basis. The law enforcement agency is required to return annually to provide an annual military equipment report (“Annual Report”) to the governing body and the public at large. The agency is also required to host a community engagement meeting for members of the public to attend.

On May 10, 2022, the City Council of the City of Blythe adopted Ordinance No. 915-22 adopting a Military Equipment Use Policy (“Policy”) governing the use of items that are deemed “military equipment” under AB 481. The Policy was effective as of June 10, 2022. Since then, the Blythe Police Department (BPD) has successfully maintained the military equipment in accordance with the Policy. This Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with Government Code section 7072(a). The BPD will host a community engagement meeting on May 18, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM in the City Council Chambers, located at 235 N. Broadway, Blythe, CA.

The following constitutes the BPD’s Annual Report:

**(1) Armored Vehicles (2000 Dodge Peacekeeper Armored Rescue Truck)**

- (a) Use of Equipment: Used in the service of two (2) search warrants.
- (b) Concerns and Complaints Received: None.
- (c) Internal Audit Results and Response: None.
- (d) Total Annual Cost (including acquisition, personnel, training, transportation, maintenance, storage, upgrade, and other ongoing costs): \$1,045.66.
  - (i) Funding source for FY 23-24: General Fund.
- (e) Quantity: 1
- (f) Future Acquisition Plans: The BPD plans to exchange this vehicle for a newer model if the opportunity arises.

**(2) Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)**

- (a) Use of Equipment: Search and rescue, suspect search, search warrant observation, river patrol.
- (b) Concerns and Complaints Received: None.
- (c) Internal Audit Results and Response: None.
- (d) Total Annual Cost (including acquisition, personnel, training, transportation, maintenance, storage, upgrade, and other ongoing costs): \$33,297.33.
  - (i) Funding source for FY 23-24: General Fund; potential grant funding from California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW).
- (e) Quantity: 2
- (f) Future Acquisition Plans: Possibly two (2) more UAS aircraft if BPD obtains grant funding from DBW.

# Blythe Police Department

---

## **(3) Firearms: Colt & B&T brand (semi-automatic and select fire rifles)**

- (a) Use of Equipment: Patrol and special operations.
- (b) Concerns and Complaints Received: None.
- (c) Internal Audit Results and Response: None.
- (d) Total Annual Cost (including acquisition, personnel, training, transportation, maintenance, storage, upgrade, and other ongoing costs): Approximately \$6,600.00.
  - (i) Funding source for FY 23-24: General Fund.
- (e) Quantity: 32
- (f) Future Acquisition Plans: The BPD may acquire two (2) 9mm Glock 18 guns through a donation from the Palm Springs Police Department.

## **(4) Pepper Ball Carbines**

- (a) Use of Equipment: Not used.
- (b) Concerns and Complaints Received: None.
- (c) Internal Audit Results and Response: None.
- (d) Total Annual Cost (including acquisition, personnel, training, transportation, maintenance, storage, upgrade, and other ongoing costs): \$0.00.
  - (i) Funding source for FY 23-24: General Fund.
- (e) Quantity: 2
- (f) Future Acquisition Plans: The BPD intends to replace existing equipment with updated models.