



CITY OF COVINA

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 26, 2026
TO: Ric Walczak, Chief of Police
FROM: Keith Sutherland, Police Sergeant
SUBJECT: Annual Military Equipment Report-2025

Introduction

Assembly Bill (AB) 481 requires law enforcement agencies to obtain approval from the applicable governing body, the adoption of a military equipment use policy, as specified by ordinance, prior to taking actions related to the funding, acquisition or use of military equipment. The term military equipment is defined within AB 481. Under this definition, military equipment is acquired and available to law enforcement through the military or private companies.

On March 15, 2022, the Covina Police Department (CPD) approved Policy Section 706, which includes our military equipment inventory and supporting documents. This policy and documents are maintained by the CPD and posted on our website which is available to the public. The policy was adopted by the applicable governing body (City Council) by ordinance on April 19, 2022.

CPD Policy § 706.7 requires an annual report to be submitted to the City Council for review via the Chief of Police as long as the military equipment is available for use. The report shall include information from the preceding calendar year for each type of military equipment listed within the inventory. This memorandum serves as the annual report covering the dates between January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

Report

(1) Military Equipment Use and Purpose

In an effort to track the purpose of Military Equipment and use within the Department to address AB 481 reporting requirements, the Department utilizes a document to track this requirement which is maintained by the Support Services Captain. These documents were reviewed and utilized to prepare this memorandum. A summary of the use and purpose of use of military equipment during the above-mentioned dates is as follows:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Incident No.</u>	<u>AB 481 Equipment Used & Purpose</u>
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Patrol	06/15/25	25-15068	Pepper ball munitions / UAV
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Purpose: Patrol responded on a radio call of an ADW. The suspect failed to comply and was struck with several pepper balls to gain his compliance. The UAV was used to track and monitor the suspect as he moved about the property.

Patrol	05/19/25	25-12614	Command & Control Vehicle
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Purpose: Patrol was dispatched to a large apartment fire at 1375 W. San Bernardino Rd. The RV was solely used as a mobile command post for operations.

Patrol	04/04/25	25-8320	UAV
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Purpose: Patrol responded to 829 W. Edna Pl. regarding a burglary in progress. The UAV was used to track and monitor suspect movement on the property.

SRT	10/27/25	Barricaded Subject	UAV / Command & Control Vehicle / NFD / LRAD
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Purpose: The Special Response Team (SRT) used (2) Noise Flash Deversion (NFD) to alert the suspect of police presence and to distract him from the teams approach. The LRAD and Mamba were used for protective cover and to make announcements to the suspect to exit the residence. A command and control vehicle was set up at the command post and used for intelligence gathering. Operators used the UAV to monitor team movement and contain the property.

SRT	03/19/25	Search Warrant	UAV / Command and Control vehicle
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Purpose: The Special Response Team served a search warrant and used the command and control vehicle specifically for intelligence gathering. Operators deployed the UAV into the apartment to clear it of any potential hazards or suspects.

SRT	09/24/25	Search Warrant	UAV / Command and Control vehicle
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Purpose: The Special Response Team served a search warrant and used the command and control vehicle specifically for intelligence gathering. Operators deployed the UAV into the residence to clear it of any potential hazards or suspects.

SRT	03/05/25	Training	UAV
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Purpose: The Special Response Team (SRT) conducted stealth searches using the UAV. The UAV was used for training to search and locate possible suspects, victims or witnesses.

SRT 08/16/25 Training Robot / UAV

Purpose: The Special Response Team (SRT) conducted stealth searches using the robot and UAV. The robot and UAV were used for training to search and locate possible suspects, victims or witnesses.

SRT 09/03/25 Training NFD / Chemical Munitions

Purpose: The Special Response Team (SRT) conducted training on vehicle assaults. During training SRT deployed (2) NFD's to prepare operators with the effects during a real incident. One CS Spede Heat was deployed to expose operators to chemical munitions. This teaches them to deal with the side-effects while still focused on mission.

In 2025, the Department utilized (4) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), commonly referred to as drones. The UAV devices are used by members of the the Department UAS Team. These devices were acquired through private donations and approved by City Council prior to their purchase. The devices were acquired for use for the purpose of supporting law enforcement operations within the Department. CPD policy section 606 governs the use of these devices. The following is a spreadsheet showing the use of each device by make/model and identification number. The spreadsheets indicate date used, the assigned incident number associated with the use and the total flight time. Flight time is measured numerically (.1 is equal or less than 6 minutes).

UAS Make/Model: Autel Evo 2

UAS Identification: U1

Date	Incident #	Total Flight Time
2/5/2025	25-3607	.3
4/3/2025	25-8225	.1
4/30/2025	25-10764	.4
5/7/2025	25-11437	.1
5/18/2025	25-12507	.7
5/22/2025	25-12948	.4

UAS Make/Model: Autel Lite

UAS Identification: U2 Champ

Date	Incident #	Total Flight Time
NONE		

UAS Make/Model: DJI U3

UAS Identification: U3

Date	Incident #	Total Flight Time
2/13/2025	25-3607	.1

UAS Make/Model: DJI U4

UAS Identification: U4

Date	Incident #	Total Flight Time
3/19/2025	SW	.2
4/4/2025	25-8320	.4

(2) Complaints or Concerns

The CPD did not receive any complaints from the public regarding the use of military equipment as described under CPD Policy 706.10.

(3) Internal Audit, Violation(s) and Action(s)

An internal audit of how the Department used military equipment did not reveal any significant issues and/or violations that required any actions by the Department.

During the annual report audit in 2026, it was determined the method of determining the quantity for certain items in 2025 will be determined by rounds contained within the original manufacturer's packaging for certain items, specifically certain rounds such as Pepperball. It was also determined that Bean Bag, 40mm projectiles and breaching rounds often times are maintained in the original manufacturer's packaging or stored on a designated side saddle with

the the launcher and/or shotgun. Symbols used to designate Greater Than (>), Less Than (<) and an asterisk (*) will be used on the inventory document when applicable. The inventory document will contain a legend explaining the meaning of the symbol.

(4) Annual Cost

The City Council approved the Military Equipment Inventory report in 2025. This document included the projected annual cost (funds) for the acquisition, maintenance, repair, upgrade, replacement and ongoing costs associated with military equipment. Equipment is assigned an item number within this inventory list and will be referred to by number henceforth.

Item numbers 1-18 (Ground Robots) did not require any funds as projected in 2025. The majority of these items are not operational and kept for parts.

Item number 19 (ARV-MAMBA) had maintenance related costs in 2025. The left rear tire had an air leak, which led to an inspection. Repairs were made by Performance Truck Repair costing \$525.00. Fuel related costs for the ARV-MAMBA are acquired through the fuel tank dispensary system at Public Works and billed to the Department. The MAMBA is currently operational.

(ARV-MRAP) is no longer owned by the Covina Police Department. In June of 2025 it was transferred to McFarland Police Department via the LESO program.

Item numbers 20-23 (LRAD) did not require any funds as projected in 2025. One LRAD was transferred to McFarland Police Department in June of 2025.

Item number 24 (Noise Flash Device) Did not require any funds in 2025.

Item number 25 (Spede-Heat CS) Did not require any funds in 2025.

Item numbers 26 (Flameless Tri-Chamber CS Munitions) did not require any funds as projected in 2025.

Item number 27 (5230B Indoor CS Munitions) did not require any funds as projected in 2025.

Item number 28-49 (Chemical Agent Kit and related contents / Launcher / Pepperball / 40mm munitions) did not require any funds as projected in 2025.

Item numbers 50 (Bean Bag Munitions) did not require any funds in 2025.

Item numbers 51-52 (Breaching Munitions / Launching Devices) did not require any funds as projected in 2025.

Item numbers 53 and 54 (Aerial-Drone) or UAV devices were acquired in 2022 and mentioned in the Annual Military Equipment Report in 2025. These devices are utilized by the Department by UAS personnel for Department and/or City related incidents as outlined above. Registration

for these devices is current. Accessories for these devices, specifically batteries, were purchased for the purpose of expanding total flight time capability and paid for by the existing PD budget.

Item number 55 (Command Vehicle) was acquired in 2024. This vehicle was acquired through the Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program (CTFGP) which is managed by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) through designated Department personnel. This vehicle was mentioned in the Annual Military Equipment Report-2025 on page 8. This vehicle was added to the Military Equipment Inventory in 2024. The vehicle is operational and the desired equipment are being currently installed for command and control purposes.

Items numbers 56 and 57 (Aerial-Drone or UAV devices manufactured by DJI) were acquired in 2024 through a private donation to the Covina Police Foundation. The Covina Police Foundation assisted the Department acquiring two additional UAV devices, primarily designed for interior use, which expands the capabilities of the overall UAS Program. These devices were added to the Military Equipment Inventory in 2024. There has been minimal normal expenses for the UAV devices in 2024. These expenses include additional cables, batteries and cases that did not exceed \$200.00.

Item number 58 (Aerial-Drone or UAV) manufactured by Skydio was acquired in 2025 through private donation. The UAV expands the capabilities of the overall UAS program. This item was added to the military equipment inventory list this year.

(5) Quantity

See attached CPD Military Equipment Inventory-2025 document for further details. The symbols for Greater Than (>) and Less Than (<) are used when applicable for items 49 and 50. Items 49 and 50 are generally removed from the original manufacturer packaging and placed within a side saddle on the designated device. The asterisk symbol (*) is also used for item number 39. The asterisk symbol does not include single rounds located within the launcher hopper or similar separate storage device.

(6) Additional Military Equipment-2026

The Department will be researching available grant funding for additional military equipment, specifically (1) armored vehicle, such as a Lenco Bearcat or similar armored vehicle plus additional UAV devices to supplement the UAS program. The purpose of researching grant funding pertaining to an armored vehicle is to replace and/or add an armored vehicle to our existing inventory. The purpose of the researching additional UAV devices is to supplement and expand our UAS program. A possible source of funding for the UAV devices will be private donations.

The Department may need to acquire and/or replenish a certain quantity of items listed within the Military Equipment Inventory-2026 document, specifically breaching, NFD, chemical and

kinetic munitions, in order to maintain stock of these items for future law enforcement use. The type (make and manufacturer) would be similar to those listed in the Military Equipment Inventory-2026 document and quantity would be determined based on projected need at time of purchase.

Any other military equipment, that falls outside or is not reflected in the Military Equipment Inventory-2026 document, sought by the Department will be brought to the attention of the City Council.

Other


The Department maintains a relationship with the Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) Program. Designated equipment within the Military Equipment-2026 document that was acquired directly from the US Military was audited by LESO personnel. The Department passed this audit. Designated Department personnel are assigned to manage the equipment associated with the LESO Program.

Conclusion

Department Policy 706 pertains to military equipment as defined by AB 481. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the approval, acquisition and reporting requirements of military equipment per Government Code 7070, Government Code 7071 and Government Code 7072. This memorandum serves as the 2025 Military Equipment Annual Report and will be submitted to the Chief of Police. Upon approval by the Chief of Police, the report will be submitted to the City Council and posted on the Department website as required by legislation. Within (30) days of submitting and publicly releasing this report, the Department will announce a community engagement meeting as required by legislation.

Submitted by: Keith Sutherland, Police Sergeant

Reviewed & Approved by: Ric Walczak, Chief of Police

Signature: 

Date: 4-27-26

Report Release to Public Date via Department Website: May 4th, 2026

Public Meeting (within 30 Days of Report Release)

- Date: May 19th, 2026
- Time: 0800-0900 hours
- Location: Covina Police Department
444 N. Citrus Ave Covina, CA 91723
- Publication of Meeting and Source: Department Website