



Council Agenda Report

Item 6c

Department: Police
Cost Center: 8001
For Agenda of: 9/2/2025
Placement: Consent
Estimated Time: N/A

FROM: Rick Scott, Police Chief
Prepared By: Brian Amoroso, Deputy Chief

SUBJECT: POLICE DEPARTMENT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT AND ASSEMBLY BILL 481 (MILITARY EQUIPMENT USE) ANNUAL REPORT UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION

1. Receive and file the 2024 Police Department Annual Report.
2. Adopt a Resolution entitled "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of San Luis Obispo, California, accepting the 2024 Military Equipment Use (Ab 481) Annual Report and Renewing Ordinance No. 1712 with Findings of Ongoing Compliance with City Policy and State Law" (Attachment A)

POLICY CONTEXT

Provide the City Council with a general update on department activities to include the 2024 Police Department Annual Report (Attachment B), the 2024 Assembly Bill 481 Annual Report Update (Attachment C), and the San Luis Obispo Police Department Military Use Policy 707 (Attachment D).

California State Law, established under AB 481, requires law enforcement agencies to obtain approval of the applicable governing body (Mayor and City Council), by adoption of a military equipment use policy. AB 481 requires publication of the military equipment use procedure and the annual military equipment report on the Department's website. The military equipment use report must be posted on the website within 30 days prior to the Council meeting. The Police Department posted the 2024 annual military equipment report on August 8, 2025, on the Police Department website under the link "[SB978-Police Policies, Procedures, and Training Materials](#)", and notified the public via Instagram, Facebook, Next Door, and X on August 8, 2025, that the report was available for public review.

Military equipment use was recorded by the San Luis Obispo Police Department for this report from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, contemporaneous and in compliance with the timelines associated with the passage of the law and corresponding City Ordinance 1712. The Police Department is returning to Council for an annual review of the Department's military equipment use and renewal of Ordinance No. 1712.

DISCUSSION

Background

Police Department Annual Report:

The 2024 Police Department Annual Report (Attachment B) provides an overview of the past operational year. This report covers key areas integral to the Police Department's operations and future planning. These areas include the organizational structure, finances, community engagement, officer wellness, department statistics, technology, recruitment and retention, the Community Action Team, and neighborhood initiatives.

The report highlights key accomplishments, including a 14% decrease in Part 1 violent crimes (forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault). Overall, Part 1 crimes rose slightly in 2024 by 3% compared to 2023, driven by a 7% increase in property crimes (burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson). Despite this uptick, 2024 Part 1 crime totals remain 32% lower than in 2021. The department will continue its crime prevention efforts and advance progress of its five-year strategic plan.

At the commencement of FY 2023-24, police staffing stood at 95.00 Full-Time Employees (FTE). In 2024 the department completed a staffing study to forecast personnel needs based on current staff utilization. These efforts are critical to the department's commitment to enhancing community safety and engagement.

Military Equipment Use Annual Report:

Assembly Bill 481, approved by the California Governor on September 30, 2021, mandates that law enforcement agencies receive approval from their governing body (City Council) for the use of military equipment. This approval is given through the adoption of a military equipment use policy, which must be reviewed annually. The policy and an annual report must also be published on the department's [website](#). The San Luis Obispo City Council approved the military equipment use policy, Resolution number 1712 (2022), on April 19, 2022.

Compliance and Reporting

The San Luis Obispo Police Department recorded military equipment use from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. An inventory count in June 2025 provided up-to-date data for the annual report, which follows the requirements of AB-481 and City Ordinance 1712.

Military Equipment Usage

In 2024, military equipment was deployed in 52 incidents out of 35,321 total service calls, constituting approximately 0.15% of all incidents. Deployment examples included:

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- Assisting other law enforcement agencies with high-risk search warrants for narcotics trafficking and violent felonies
- Safely arresting barricaded suspects
- Subduing disorderly suspects who refused commands and posed significant risks to others
- Conducting area canvasses for at-risk missing persons
- Gathering intelligence during large-scale public events, including protests, rallies, and holiday celebrations
- Documenting fatal collisions and major crime scenes
- Documenting storm damage
- Providing pre-storm notifications to homeless encampments
- Aiding in the search for suspects who fled the scene

Equipment Deployment Summary

Equipment Type	Number of Deployments
Lenco Bearcat Armored Rescue Vehicle	4
Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (Drone)	50
40mm Launcher with Less-Lethal Rounds	2
Robot	2
Mobile Incident Command Vehicle	4

For the detailed report and further information, please refer to Attachment C.

Requested New Equipment

- Increase Launching Cup inventory from 2 to 4. The launching cups attach to the end of an existing Remington 870 Shotgun and allow for safer deployment of chemical agents into suspect locations.
- 10 Defense Technology OC/CS Aerosol Grenade, Model # 1050. This is a new product that has significant advantages over the pyrotechnic method of chemical agent dispersal. There is virtually no risk of fire as the chemical agents are dispersed via aerosol. There is also no smoke associated with the dispersal, the vapor is clear and allows for a high level of visibility when dealing with suspects.
- Increase inventory of CTS 5230B from 25 to 50. The department is in the process of phasing out the CTS and DefTec model triple chaser munitions that were traditionally used for riot control due to their high fire risk and less precise chemical agent delivery. The CTS 5230B poses a lower fire risk and allows for a more controlled chemical agent delivery, resulting in safer deployment.

Conclusion:

Annual Report

The 2024 Police Department Annual Report highlights the exemplary level of service provided by the department while outlining the various aspects, divisions, and individuals that contribute to its success. This report not only shows the department's accomplishments but also reflects its commitment to maintaining a high standard of peace officer services in our community.

The Police Department made significant strides in returning to a balanced, community-based, and proactive approach to providing emergency services. Focusing on staffing, proactive policing and strengthening community relationships ensured a safe work environment for employees and supported them amidst a constantly changing public landscape. The department believes proper staffing, smart policing leveraging technology, and positive morale directly impact crime reduction in the city.

The police staff worked diligently to ensure the department remained trusted, supported, and healthy, both physically and emotionally. Continued education and proactive measures have helped decrease crime trends, and these efforts will persist throughout 2025. Strategies include directed patrols at problem locations, specialized operations to apprehend opportunistic criminals, and community engagement through various media to reduce victimization and increase awareness. The Police Department remains dedicated to reducing crime and safeguarding the community while upholding ethical policing in an ever-evolving legal landscape.

Military Equipment Use

The Military Equipment Use Annual report highlights the accountability and responsibility of the Police Department to only use military equipment when necessary and in accordance with law, policy and procedure. In 2024, military equipment was deployed in 52 incidents out of 35,321 total service calls, constituting approximately 0.15% of all incidents. The San Luis Obispo Police Department continues to focus on de-escalation, building rapport, and minimizing use of force to the lowest level possible.

The possession of military use equipment allows the police department to be prepared to respond to threats to our community, in a manner that protects the life and safety of the community and employees.

Previous Council or Advisory Body Action

On May 3, 2022, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1712, approving and adopting San Luis Obispo Police Department Policy No. 707 (military equipment use policy.) On June 20, 2023, the City Council received and filed the 2022 Police Department Crime Report and Military Equipment Use Annual Report. On August 20, 2024, the City Council received and filed the Police Department's 2023 Annual Report and AB 481 Update.

Public Engagement

The community is invited to submit comments in writing prior to the meeting regarding this item. In addition, this hearing satisfies the requirements under section Government Code 7071, et seq., and provides the most transparent summary to date of both crime and public safety information and the use and inventory of military equipment as defined under California Law.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to the recommended action in this report, because the action does not constitute a “Project” under CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15378.

FISCAL IMPACT

Budgeted: Yes

Budget Year: 2024-25

Funding Identified: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	Total Budget Available	Current Funding Request	Remaining Balance	Annual Ongoing Cost
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State				
Federal				
Fees				
Other:				
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

There is no direct fiscal impact to the City related to this report. All referenced equipment is included in the Police Department’s budget which is funded through the General Fund’s annual budget appropriation adopted by the City Council. All efforts within the report are covered through the annual program allocations as outlined in the City’s Financial Plan.

ALTERNATIVES

The City Council could choose not to receive and file the Police Department Annual report. Council could determine that the Police Department Annual report does not meet their standards and direct staff to make modifications to the report. The Police Department believes that the Annual Report accurately reflects the crime statistics for the 2024 calendar year and provides a comprehensive review of departmental activities, providing transparency and accountability to the community.

The City Council could decline to adopt the draft Resolution renewing Ordinance No. 1712. If the City Council determines that one or more types of military equipment identified in the AB 481 Annual Report does not comply with the standards set forth in AB 481, the Council may disapprove renewal of the ordinance or require staff to modify the Policy No. 707. As reflected in the report, the Police Department believes that all military equipment used by the Department complies with AB 481/Government Code §7071. Non-approval of the continued use of military equipment by the police department would restrict access to tools used in the performance of law enforcement duties for the security and safety of the city.

ATTACHMENTS

- A - Draft Resolution – 2024 AB481 and Renewal of Ordinance 1712
- B - San Luis Obispo Police Department 2024 Annual Report
- C - San Luis Obispo Police Department 2024 Assembly Bill 481 Annual Report
- D - San Luis Obispo Police Department Military Use Policy 707