City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: June 2, 2026

TO: Dean Albro, City Manager

FROM Kevin M. Martin, Chief of Police
kmartin@ci.lompoc.ca.us

SUBJECT: Review of Lompoc Police Department's 2025 Annual Military Equipment Report; Community Engagement Session; Annual Renewal of Ordinance Adopting the Lompoc Police Department's Military Equipment Use Policy and Inventory, Pursuant to AB 481

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council:

1) Review the Lompoc Police Department's 2025 Annual Military Equipment Report (Attachment 1); and

2) Open public comment for a community engagement session for the public to discuss and ask questions regarding the 2025 Report and the Police Department's funding, acquisition, and use of military equipment; and

3) Determine that each identified type of military equipment complies with the standards for approval in Government Code section 7071(d), and vote to renew the ordinance adopting the Lompoc Police Department's 2023 Military Equipment Use Policy and Inventory, updated for 2025 (Attachment 2), Pursuant to AB 481 (Attachment 3).

Background:

On September 30, 2021, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 481 (AB 481), which became effective on January 1, 2022. AB 481 requires the Lompoc Police Department to create a Military Equipment Use Policy, which was to be presented to the City Council by May 1, 2022, and adopted within 180 days thereafter. Due to previous events in our nation, the public asked state and local leaders to enact law enforcement reforms and set statewide standards for safe de-escalation techniques.

On May 17, 2022, the Lompoc City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1694(22) approving a Military Equipment Use Policy and Inventory for the Lompoc Police Department.

Each year thereafter, AB 481 requires the Police Department to prepare and submit to the City Council an annual military equipment report that provides the following information for the preceding calendar year for each type of military equipment:

1) A summary of how the military equipment was used and the purpose of its use;
2) A summary of any complaints or concerns received concerning the military equipment;
3) The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the military equipment use policy, and any actions taken in response;
4) The total annual cost for each type of military equipment, including acquisition, personnel, training, transportation, maintenance, storage, upgrade, and other ongoing costs, and from what source funds will be provided for the military equipment in the calendar year following submission of the annual military equipment report;
5) The quantity possessed for each type of military equipment; and
6) If the law enforcement agency intends to acquire additional military equipment in the next year, the quantity sought for each type of military equipment.

The Lompoc Police Department's 2025 Annual Report is attached as Attachment 1. The Police Department must also post each annual report on its website and must hold a community engagement meeting after the annual report is submitted to the City Council. The community engagement session will be held at this City Council meeting.

After reviewing the 2025 Annual Report, AB 481 requires the City Council to vote on whether to renew the ordinance adopting the Military Equipment Use Policy, updated for 2025.

Discussion:

In deciding whether to renew the ordinance adopting the Military Equipment Use Policy, the City Council must determine, based on the 2025 Annual Report, whether each type of military equipment identified in that report has complied with the following standards, pursuant to Government Code section 7071(e)(2):

(A) The military equipment is necessary because there is no reasonable alternative that can achieve the same objective of officer and civilian safety;

(B) The proposed military equipment use policy will safeguard the public's welfare, safety, civil rights, and civil liberties;

(C) If purchasing the equipment, the equipment is reasonably cost effective compared to available alternatives that can achieve the same objective of officer and civilian safety; and

(D) Prior military equipment use complied with the Department's policy that was in effect at the time, or if prior uses did not comply with the accompanying military

equipment use policy, corrective action has been taken to remedy nonconforming uses and ensure future compliance.

If the City Council determines that a type of military equipment identified in the 2025 Annual Report has not complied with the standards above, the City Council shall either disapprove a renewal of the authorization for that type of military equipment or require modifications to the military equipment use policy in a manner that will resolve the lack of compliance.

Each type of equipment identified in the 2025 Annual Report and the Military Equipment Use Policy, updated for 2025, complies with all the above required standards.

Law enforcement agencies are responsible for ensuring the highest standard of public safety, protect and serve members of the community, and apprehend criminal offenders. To help achieve and maintain the highest standard of public safety, law enforcement receives support from local elected officials who are committed in funding operational needs, which includes the approval to purchase and finance necessary tools, protective gear and specialized equipment for the purpose of helping protect and save lives and property. With the City Council's partnership and approval, the Lompoc Police Department can operate with the most advanced technology, equipment, and resources available with the goal to protect and serve the community with increased effectiveness, be prepared for the unexpected, and ultimately save lives with a uniform response standard by all law enforcement agencies across all jurisdictions and within the county.

AB 481 identifies certain law enforcement equipment as 'military equipment' and requires oversight from the City Council for the purchase and usage of that military equipment. The Use Policy (Attachment 2) (which is included in the Lompoc Police Department Policy Manual) establishes an ongoing standard and policy for safe de-escalation techniques and military equipment use/application, as required by AB 481.

The list of identified 'military equipment' is currently deployed by the Lompoc Police Department as well as neighboring agencies within Santa Barbara County, and throughout the state of California, as well as law enforcement organizations across the nation, and AB 481 lists equipment that is recognized and more appropriately identified by local, state, and federal law enforcement entities as **SPECIALIZED POLICE EQUIPMENT**. For additional context, the Lompoc Police Department, over a span of many years, has acquired its 'military equipment' with previous City Council approval either during the annual budget process or as an individual request. Specialized police equipment is used only by highly trained and experienced law enforcement professionals.

The list of itemized equipment is attached as required by AB 481 and summarized below. This inventory list ranges from modernized tools, and aerial drones, to off-road vehicles whose primary purpose is the preservation of human life when utilized in responding to critical incidents, which often involve high-risk apprehension, search and rescue, fast responses to catastrophic events, reduce the liability of physical injury to public and department personnel, and allow for de-escalation tactics during high-risk encounters with

armed violent suspects. The tools, equipment, and resources can function as a force-multiplier in some cases to reduce manpower hours and is ultimately a cost savings to the City.

Although most tools, equipment, and resources listed as military equipment in AB 481 are found in a military environment and may be similar in nature, the application in which the equipment is used is significantly different for public safety and law enforcement. Below is a list of specialized equipment inventory and a variety of their uses.

Lompoc Police Department Specialized Equipment Inventory

- **Unmanned, remotely piloted powered aerial or ground vehicles:**
    - Search and locate reported missing children or at-risk adults;
    - Search and Rescue Operations to locate lost or injured hikers;
    - A law enforcement-specific application involving Aerial DRONES are used for open terrain or large field searches as a force multiplier to assist in high-risk apprehensions of armed or violent suspects. Aerial drones can be used as an interior search tool to locate suspects barricaded inside a residence or commercial structure;
    - A tracked armored vehicle remotely piloted for use in explosive ordinance disposal;
    - Unmanned robotics have numerous applications. Robotics are used instead of personnel in high-risk environments to increase safety for law enforcement.
- **Armored Vehicles:**
    - Inventory includes a BATT-X Armored Rescue Vehicle, primarily used during high-risk tactical enforcement operations, officer rescues, and vehicle-borne interventions. Additional deployments are used during criminal unrest and riots. Rescue vehicles provide ballistic safety during the containment and apprehension of armed violent suspects;
    - Rescue vehicle for on-campus active shooter incidents to rescue injured victims;
    - 4X4 capability to transport or evacuate victims in a flood, fire or other natural disaster;
    - Rescue vehicles provide numerous safety capabilities for law enforcement, victim rescues, and overall community safety;

- Armored vehicles have attachable metal booms that can be used for breaching structures, fences, or ramming objects during high-risk incidents, to include active shooter incidents on school grounds or buildings.

- **Non-handheld battering rams, slugs, and breaching apparatuses that are explosive in nature:**
  - Explosive breaching tools;
  - Avon frangible shotgun ammunition is used to breach doors and points of entry on fortified doors or structures. The rounds are used to impact door hinges, doorknobs, and locks.

- **Assault Weapons defined under PC 30510 & PC 30515:**
  - Inventory includes AR-style rifles that function at full and semi-automatic capability;
  - Semi-automatic Benelli shotgun;
  - Increased accuracy and precision at long-range distances;
  - Currently used by most law enforcement agencies across the nation.

- **Flashbang grenades and explosive breaching tools:**
  - Light Sound Diversionary Device (LSDD-"Flashbangs") are diversionary devices used to minimize risk to all parties through the temporary distraction or disorientation of armed and violent suspects that pose a significant danger to the deputies and community. The effects of LSDD reduce a suspect's reactionary capabilities and allow for momentary disorientation, which creates a tactical advantage. LSDD is a hand-delivered device and is generally deployed on the exterior of structures;
  - Provides a humane fright of aggressive dogs that pose a threat to officers;
  - Explosive breaching tools are used to breach fortified structures to establish a point of entry. Explosive charges are fashioned to produce little to no fragmentation at the time of detonation. Explosive breaching effectively reduces the time spent overcoming a fortified door or structure. The reduction in time mitigating a hardened structure increases officer safety and the element of surprise. Blast injuries are reduced by using low-yield explosives that mechanically overcome door frames and locking mechanisms. Explosive breaching mandates extensive schooling and certification processes.

- **Tear Gas:**

    - Chemical agents are deployed through various means including hand delivery and weapon launchable, such as pepper ball. Munitions are either 37 mm or 40 mm caliber, shotgun ferret rounds or canister shotgun launched ordinance. Hand-delivered chemical agents are placed in metal burn boxes to reduce fire hazards.

- **Command and Control Vehicles built or modified to facilitate the operational control and direction of public safety units:**

    - Command vehicles are built in various platforms to include ½ ton pickup chassis, vans, trailers, and RV style configurations. Vehicles are built to better assist in command and control during law enforcement operations, natural disasters, and public safety issues. Vehicles are designed with additional communication abilities, computers, whiteboards, lighting, generators, and mission-essential supplies.

- **40 mm projectile launchers:**

    - Less lethal 40 mm launchers and rubber projectile munitions. Munitions are configured for high and low energy impact. Munitions have the additional benefit as a barrier round for breaking vehicle and residential glass so that chemical munitions can be deployed. 40 mm less lethal has been effective in disarming violent suspects, armed suspects, and subjects who are suicidal with minimal injury and risk to the person, law enforcement, or the public.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this request. The Lompoc Police Department is seeking approval for the equipment that has been in use by the Department that falls within the requirements of AB 481.

Conclusion:

The Lompoc Police Department is committed to working cooperatively across jurisdictional boundaries to ensure that all catastrophic events, response to critical incidents, search and rescue operations, and many other multi-jurisdictional events that arise from neighboring agencies and counties are supported safely and justifiably. Any event which requires the use of any of the above-listed specialized equipment is conducted in a fair, transparent, and professional manner. The City Council shall vote either for or against renewal of the Department's list of existing 'military equipment'. The Department will continue to provide annual reports each year going forward for City Council review in considering annual renewal of the Use Policy.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kevin M. Martin, Chief of Police

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

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Dean Albro, City Manager

Attachments:
1) 2025 Annual Military Equipment Report
2) Lompoc Police Department Policy Section 709 with Military Equipment Inventory, updated for 2025.
3) AB 481