



FERNDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ronald B. Sligh, Chief of Police

600 BERDING STREET • P.O. BOX 1096 FERNDALE, CA 95536

PHONE: (707) 786-4025 FAX: (707) 786-4015



STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 6, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Ronald Sligh, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: ANNUAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT REPORT PER ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 481

SUMMARY

On May 18, 2022, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2022-01 approving a Military Equipment Use Policy pursuant to Assembly Bill 481. In accordance with AB-481 and the policy, a military equipment report must be submitted to the City Council annually for each type of military equipment approved within one year of approval, and annually thereafter for as long as the military equipment is available for use. In compliance with AB-481, outlined below is the 2022 Annual Military Equipment Report.

BACKGROUND

On September 30, 2021, Assembly Bill 481 required all law enforcement agencies to adopt a military use policy by ordinance. The Police Department complied with AB-481 and adopted Ordinance No. 2022-01.

AB-481 also required law enforcement agencies to submit to the City Council an annual military equipment report on the use of the equipment, any complaint(s) or concern(s) regarding the use of the equipment, results of any internal audits on the use of the equipment, the annual costs for the equipment, the quantity possessed by the agency and the intention to purchase additional equipment in the following budget year. In addition, within 30 days of submitting and publicly releasing the report, a well-publicized community engagement meeting must be held to allow for public comments.

DISCUSSION

To meet the requirements of the report pursuant to AB-481 a review was conducted of the Police Department's military equipment and the findings are reported below.

1. One (1) 1993 AM General (#140630), High mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWV) with large cargo "ambulance" cargo box. The vehicle is equipped with police emergency lighting and a siren. It is painted in its original camouflage paint from the military. The vehicle has Ferndale Police Department Badge decals on both front doors.

The HMMWV was used in three parades for traffic control. The HMMWV had one maintenance expense in 2025, which was the purchase of two new batteries. The purchase cost was within the

yearly budgeted amount for maintenance. The department plans to again budget \$500 a year for maintenance of the vehicle.

2. Five (5) Colt AR-15 rifles, .223. The department is amending the military equipment inventory to reflect the department owned rifles. The department rifles are classified as law enforcement patrol rifles and comply with Department Policy No. 305.3.3. The rifles are not previously owned military rifles and are not to military specifications. The department maintains an inventory of approximately 5000 rounds of ammunition and trains with the weapons annually. The department budgets \$400 a year for training ammunition.

Complaints or Concerns

No complaints were reported regarding the use of the equipment in 2024.

Internal Audit

No violations of the military use equipment policy were observed or reported.

Intention to Purchase Additional Equipment

The department does not intend to purchase any additional military equipment for the foreseeable future.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact related to this annual report.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council approve the Annual Military Equipment Report.



Ronald Sligh
Chief of Police