



Ventura County Sheriff's Office
Military Equipment Annual Report - 2025
April 22, 2026

On May 24, 2022, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors adopted Ventura County Ordinance 4603 pursuant to California Assembly Bill No. 481 (AB 481) which codified Chapter 12.8 to Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code, commencing with section 7070. The legislative intent behind AB 481 was to increase the public transparency by which California law enforcement agencies fund, acquire, and/or use "military equipment."

Ordinance 4603 requires the Sheriff's Office to obtain Board of Supervisors approval prior to taking certain actions relating to the funding, acquisition, and/or use of equipment defined by the ordinance as "military equipment." The term "military equipment" as used in Ordinance 4603 does not necessarily indicate equipment used by the military. The majority of the equipment defined by this ordinance and possessed by the Sheriff's Office is employed by most law enforcement agencies across the country to enhance citizen and officer safety. In addition, Ordinance 4603 requires the Sheriff's Office to submit an annual military equipment report to the Board of Supervisors by July 1st of each year for as long as the military equipment is available for use.

The Sheriff's Office shall make each annual military equipment report publicly available on the department website for as long as the military equipment is available for use and hold a community engagement meeting within 30 days of posting the report to the department website. The report shall include the following information for the immediately preceding calendar year:

1. A summary of how the Military Equipment was used and the purpose for 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 and the source of funds to cover such expenses.
5. The quantity possessed for each type of Military Equipment.
6. Whether there is intent to acquire additional Military Equipment in the next year, and if so, the quantity sought for each type of equipment.

This report shall cover the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

Unmanned, remotely piloted, powered aerial vehicles

- The Sheriff's Office has 27 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV). UAVs may be deployed when an aerial view would assist with investigations, including missing persons' searches, vehicle collisions, natural disaster management, crime scene evidence collection, public safety, high-risk apprehension of armed violent suspects, and other life-saving missions. Sheriff's Emergency Services also utilizes UAVs for disaster prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery.
- Total Usage: 687 events
 - 319 times to assist patrol with suspect searches, exterior building searches, etc.
 - 70 times for Homeless related operations
 - 35 times for evidence collection
 - 81 times for Organized Retail Theft operations
 - 14 times for OES Damage Assessment (e.g. fires, floods)
 - 159 times for Tactical Team assists (SWAT, TRT)
 - Six times for Missing Person/SAR operations
 - Three times for Mutual Aid/Outside Agency assists
- Equipment Costs
 - On January 13, 2026, the Board of Supervisors approved the use of approximately \$14,466 from the Sheriff's existing budgeted funds for the purchase two DJI Matrice 4E UAV for use by the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services. The Sheriff's Office expects to take possession of these UAV's during calendar year 2026.
 - Approximately \$5,543 of existing Sheriff's FY 24/25 budgeted funds was spent on equipment repairs, batteries, and supplies for the UAV program.
 - Approximately \$3,965 of existing Sheriff's FY 24/25 budgeted funds was spent on FAA licensing and UAV training.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- The Sheriff's Office intends to request Board of Supervisors' approval to purchase multiple UAVs to replace those in our current fleet that are foreign-made. All requested aircraft will be listed on the "Blue UAS" list of authorized aircraft by the US Federal Government. The "Blue UAS" list pertains to a comprehensive initiative designed to rapidly vet and scale secure commercial UAS technology for government applications.

Unmanned, remotely piloted, powered ground vehicles

- The Sheriff's Office has six unmanned ground vehicles (robots). This is a reduction of two robots from the eight total reported in 2024. This reduction is due to the Sheriff's Bomb Squad returning or destroying several robots which were obsolete or damaged to the point they were no longer serviceable.
- On April 23, 2024, the Board of Supervisors approved the use of Homeland

Security Grant funds to purchase one ICOR Mini-CALIBER tactical robot. The Sheriff's Office has taken possession of this robot which is currently assigned to the SWAT team.

- This equipment is utilized by the Sheriff's Bomb Unit and SWAT team to remotely gain visual/audio data, carry equipment, open doors, facilitate disposal of hazardous devices and clear buildings without exposing deputies to hazardous situations. They may be deployed during high-risk situations such as searches for wanted subjects, barricaded subjects and hostage rescues. They may also be used to inspect hazardous materials, possible explosive devices, and other hazardous situations.
- Usage
 - 34 times for community events/demonstrations/training.
 - Two times for suspect searches related to SWAT operations.
 - Four times for calls for service related to possible explosives.
 - Four times for building sweeps prior to dignitary visits.
- Equipment Costs
 - There were no new purchases related to this equipment.
 - There was no money spent on existing equipment during 2025.
 - There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into existing Bomb Unit and SWAT team training.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- Intent to obtain additional equipment.
 - The Sheriff's Office intends to request Board of Supervisors approval to continue to participate in the Law Enforcement Support Office's military equipment surplus program and specifically seek out additional military surplus robots to improve the existing inventory utilized by the Sheriff's Bomb Unit. Military surplus items, such as the ones requested, are provided to law enforcement at no cost.

Mine-resistant ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles or armored personnel carriers. However, police versions of standard consumer vehicles are specifically excluded from this subdivision.

- The Sheriff's Office has two armored personnel carriers, a Lenco Bearcat and a Lenco Medcat. These vehicles are to be used during critical incidents to support tactical operations and provide safe transport, security, and rescue of department personnel and members of the public. They may also be used during disaster-related emergencies, search and rescue operations, and terrorism preparedness, protection, and response.
- In November, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Sheriff's Office to purchase a new Lenco Bearcat G3 armored rescue vehicle. Funding for this purchase will come from the Edward Byrne JAG Equipment and Training grant program. The Sheriff's Office expects to take delivery of the vehicle prior to October 2026.
- Usage

- 61 times for community events/demonstrations.
- One time to support Sheriff's personnel response to a civil disturbance.
- Nine times for SWAT operations including the service of high-risk search warrants, barricaded subject incidents, and dignitary protection details.
- Four times for mutual aid requests from other local law enforcement agencies to assist with high-risk search warrants and/or barricaded subject incidents.
- Equipment Costs
 - Approximately \$19,693 was spent from the Sheriff's existing FY 24/25 budget on service, repairs, and fuel for these vehicles.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- There is no current intent to seek additional equipment in this category.

High mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWV), commonly referred to as Humvees, two and one-half-ton trucks, five-ton trucks, or wheeled vehicles that have a breaching or entry apparatus attached. However, unarmored all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and motorized dirt bikes are specifically excluded from this subdivision.

- The Sheriff's Office has two usable Light-Medium Tactical Vehicles (M1078 troop transports) and one AM General HMMWV (Humvee). These are high mobility multipurpose four-wheel drive vehicles with the capacity to travel over difficult terrain. Both vehicles are assigned to Search and Rescue as their primary purpose is to perform rescue missions in areas that are not accessible to traditional first responder vehicles. They may also be used during other emergencies, such as active shooter or hostage scenarios, and antiterrorism preparedness, protection, and response.
- Usage
 - These vehicles were not deployed during the specified period.
- Equipment Costs
 - Approximately \$2,758 was spent on service, repairs, and fuel for these existing vehicles. Funding was derived from the Sheriff's existing budget.
 - There were no training costs as the training related to this equipment is incorporated into existing Search and Rescue team training.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- There is no current intent to seek additional equipment in this category.

Tracked armored vehicles that provide ballistic protection to their occupants and utilize a tracked system instead of wheels for forward motion.

- The Sheriff's Office has one armored Caterpillar tractor (ROOK). It operates on tracks to provide greater ground contact than tires and it has mission specific attachments including a floor-to-roof front shield, hydraulic breaching ram, a grapple claw, and a vehicle extraction tool. The Rook may be utilized during SWAT

and/or Bomb Unit deployments when there is a need for its defensive ballistic protection, rescue platform, and the ability to navigate rough terrain environments where other equipment would be limited. It may also be used during disaster-related emergencies and search and rescue operations.

- Usage
 - Seven times to assist the Sheriff's SWAT team during SWAT operations.
 - Four times for mutual aid requests from other local law enforcement agencies to assist with law enforcement operations.
 - Seven times for community events/demonstrations.
- Equipment Costs
 - There were no new equipment costs.
 - Approximately \$4,745 was spent on service, repairs, and fuel for existing equipment. Funding was derived from the Sheriff's existing FY 24/25 budget.
 - Approximately \$15,229 from the Sheriff's existing FY 25/26 budget was spent on network video upgrades, enhanced recorders and associated equipment.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- There is no current intent to seek additional equipment in this category.

Command and control vehicles that are either built or modified to facilitate the operational control and direction of public safety units.

- The Sheriff's Office has two 45' Frontline Communications command centers, two 20' Search and Rescue trailers, and one 29' Freightliner SWAT command vehicle. They are all used as mobile incident command posts during critical incidents, search and rescue operations, and pre-staged events.
- Usage
 - 18 times for community events/demonstrations
 - 10 times for enforcement operations or special details (e.g. organized retail theft blitz operations, DUI checkpoints)
 - 28 times for search and rescue operations/training
 - 18 times for critical incidents/criminal investigations/fires
- Equipment Costs
 - Approximately \$60,876 was spent on equipment, service, repairs, and fuel for these existing vehicles. Funding was derived from the Sheriff's existing budget.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- There is no current intent to seek additional equipment in this category.

Weaponized aircraft, vessels, or vehicles of any kind.

- The Sheriff's Office does not possess any equipment in this category, nor is there any intent to seek any.

Battering rams, slugs, and breaching apparatuses that are explosive in nature. However, items designed to remove a lock, such as bolt cutters, or a handheld ram designed to be operated by one person, are specifically excluded from this subdivision.

- The Sheriff's Office has four breaching shotguns and eight Kinetic Breaching Tools (KBT). This equipment is used by the SWAT team and members of specialized investigative units to quickly and effectively breach doors.
- Usage
 - The KBT was used 48 times during the service of search warrants.
 - The breaching shotgun was not used during this specified period, other than during training.
- Expenses related to this equipment
 - There were no costs related to existing equipment.
 - There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into existing team trainings.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- There is no current intent to seek additional equipment in this category.

Firearms and ammunition of .50 caliber or greater. However, standard issue shotguns are specifically excluded from this subdivision.

- The Sheriff's SWAT team has two .50 caliber rifles and about 840 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition. These rifles are precision weapons intended to address a threat with more accuracy from a greater distance than other rifles utilized by the Sheriff's Office. This rifle also provides greater penetration in situations where smaller caliber ammunition is ineffective due to armor protection.
- Usage
 - This rifle was not used during the specified period, other than during training.
- Expenses related to this equipment
 - There were no costs related to existing equipment.
 - There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into existing SWAT team training.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- There is no current intent to seek additional equipment in this category.

Specialized firearms and ammunition of less than .50 caliber, including assault weapons as defined in sections 30510 and 30515 of the California Penal Code, with the exception of standard issue service weapons and ammunition of less than .50 caliber that are issued to officers, agents, or employees of a law enforcement agency or a state agency.

- The Sheriff's Office has 652 .223 caliber rifles and 12 .308 rifles, along with approximately 409,000 rounds of .223 caliber/5.56mm ammunition and approximately 43,800 rounds of .308 caliber ammunition. These are precision weapons intended to address a threat with more accuracy from a greater distance than a handgun, such as an encounter with an armed or barricaded subject. They also provide greater penetration of soft body armor than a handgun.
- Seven of these .308 rifles are not deployed for enforcement purposes. They are only used by the Sheriff's Honor Guard for official ceremonies.
- Usage
 - 35 times a rifle was pointed at a potential suspect
 - 27 times utilized for ceremonies
 - There were 2 instances of a rifle being fired at a suspect during this specified period.
- Expenses related to this equipment
 - On April 26, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved Sheriff's Office Policy 709 on Military Equipment which allows for the Sheriff's Office to purchase ammunition to maintain a sufficient inventory to meet department needs.
 - Approximately \$100,000 was spent from the Sheriff's existing FY 25/26 budget to purchase .223 caliber ammunition.
 - There were no additional costs associated with this equipment.
 - Training for this equipment was incorporated into other existing training, range qualifications, etc.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- There is no current intent to seek additional equipment in this category.

Any firearm or firearm accessory that is designed to launch explosive projectiles.

- The Sheriff's Office has two CTS LC5 Chemical Agent Launching Cups. This equipment is maintained by the SWAT team and is intended to enable members to maintain a safe distance from potentially hazardous situations when deploying chemical agents, reducing the risk of direct confrontation and potential harm to deputies, innocent civilians, and suspects making operations safer and more controlled.
- Usage
 - This equipment was not used during this specified period, other than during training.
- Expenses related to this equipment
 - On September 24, 2024, the Board of Supervisors approved the use of approximately \$1,557 from the Sheriff's Human Trafficking Asset Forfeiture Trust for the purchase of two CTS LC5 Chemical Agent Launching Cups. This equipment was subsequently received by the Sheriff's Office in March of 2025.
 - There were no costs related to existing equipment.

- There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into existing team trainings.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- There is no current intent to seek additional equipment in this category.

Noise-flash diversionary devices and explosive breaching tools.

- The Sheriff's SWAT team maintains several types of noise-flash diversionary devices, commonly referred to as flash bangs. These devices, which produce a loud concussive report and bright white light to create short-term sensory disruption, provide law enforcement personnel a tactical advantage during critical incidents such as high-risk search warrants, arrests of armed and violent subjects, and hostage rescue operations. The SWAT team currently has 63 noise-flash diversionary devices in their inventory, of which 15 are expired.
- In 2025, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Sheriff's SWAT team to obtain explosive materials in support of the development of a remote breaching program. Remote breaching, defined as the use of a minimally constructed explosive device to accomplish a specific breaching objective, offers the ability to safely and rapidly gain entry to a crisis location during critical incidents. The Sheriff's Office has placed its order for these items and is anticipating delivery in early 2026.
- Usage
 - Four noise-flash diversionary devices were used during 2025 by the SWAT team during SWAT operations.
 - One noise-flash diversionary device was used during a demonstration of the SWAT team for community members.
- Expenses related to this equipment
 - On April 26, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved Sheriff's Office Policy 709 on Military Equipment authorizing the Sheriff's Office to replenish its stock of certain military equipment items which have been deemed perishable and essential to maintaining operational efficiency and training, including noise-flash diversionary devices. Approximately \$2,084 from the Sheriff's existing FY 24/25 budget was used to purchase noise flash diversionary devices.
 - There were no costs related to existing equipment.
 - There were no training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into existing SWAT team training.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.

Chemical agents containing tear gas or OC, excluding standard, service-issued handheld pepper spray.

- The Sheriff's Office maintains several types of munitions containing CS (tear gas) and/or OC which are less-lethal tools used to compel violent/armed and barricaded suspects to comply when circumstances are too hazardous for deputies to

approach them. Chemical agents may also be used against members of riotous crowds to defend against a threat to life or serious bodily injury, or to bring an objectively dangerous and unlawful situation safely and effectively under control. The Sheriff's Office currently has a total of 102 munitions containing chemical agents, of which 34 are expired/non-deployable. We also have 22 Pepperball launchers, of which three are non-deployable due to age or maintenance issues. We currently have approximately 10,751 rounds of Pepperball munitions.

- Usage
 - Excluding training activities, chemical agents were used a total of six times during the specified period. These incidents involved the use of a Pepperball launcher five times and the deployment of CS gas once.
- Expenses related to this equipment
 - On April 26, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved Sheriff's Office Policy 709 on Military Equipment which allows for the Sheriff's Office to purchase chemical agents as needed to meet department needs. Approximately \$10,027 was spent from the Sheriff's existing FY 24/25 and/or FY 25/26 budget to purchase chemical agents to replenish the existing inventory due to use of munitions in training or during incidents.
 - There were no additional training costs as the training for this equipment is incorporated into existing SWAT team, Tactical Response Team, and Emergency Response Team training.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- There is no intent to seek additional equipment in this category.

Taser Shockwave, microwave weapons, water cannons, and the Long-Range Acoustic Device (LRAD).

- The Sheriff's Office currently has one Remotely Operated Water Monitor for the Sheriff's Medcat Armored Rescue Vehicle. The primary purpose of this equipment is to enhance the fire suppression capabilities of the Sheriff's Office and the Fire Department in hazardous and high-risk environments. This Remotely Operated Water Monitor will not be used for crowd control or during incidents of civil unrest and its role is strictly limited to protecting lives and property during fire-related emergencies.
- Usage
 - This equipment was not used during the specified time period.
- Expenses related to this equipment
 - This equipment was given to us by the Ventura County Fire Department with no cost to the Sheriff's Office.
 - There were no costs associated with existing equipment.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- There is no intent to seek additional equipment in this category.

The following projectile launch platforms and their associated munitions: 40mm projectile launchers, "bean bag," rubber bullet, and specialty impact munition (SIM) weapons.

- The Sheriff's Office currently has 30 40mm launchers, approximately 422 40mm "Direct Impact" rounds (249 sponge rounds, 173 marking rounds), approximately 346 "Direct Impact" rounds containing chemical agents (of which seven are expired), and approximately 226 40mm "Stinger" rounds containing 60 caliber rubber balls (of which all are expired). The Sheriff's Office also has 113 less-lethal shotguns and approximately 5940 super-sock bean bag rounds. These are less lethal tools designed to be used from a distance in order to compel potentially violent suspects to cease dangerous actions and/or comply with arrest.
- The Sheriff's Office currently has 30 simunition training weapons, 55 simunition rifle conversion bolts, and approximately 17,000 rounds of simunition marking rounds. This equipment is solely designed and used for training purposes.
- Usage:
 - 14 times a 40mm launcher was pointed at a suspect
 - Six times a 40mm launcher was fired at a suspect
 - Four times a less-lethal bean bag shotgun was pointed at a suspect.
- Expenses related to this equipment
 - On April 26, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved Sheriff's Office Policy 709 on Military Equipment which allows for the Sheriff's Office to purchase munitions as needed to meet department needs.
 - Approximately \$7,100 was spent from the Sheriff's FY 25/26 budget to purchase 40mm impact sponge rounds. The munitions were received during 2025.
 - Approximately \$61,000 was spent from the Sheriff's FY 24/25 budget to purchase 12-gauge bean bag rounds. This order was received in 2025.
 - Approximately \$30,000 was spent from Sheriff's asset forfeiture funds to purchase 30 Smith & Wesson 9mm simunition training weapons.
 - There were no costs associated with existing equipment.
 - There were no costs associated with training as the training for this equipment was incorporated into other existing training, range qualifications, etc.
- There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
- There were no discoveries of any inappropriate use of this equipment.
- Intent to seek additional equipment in this category.
 - In October of 2025, the Sheriff's Office received Board of Supervisor approval to purchase new Smith & Wesson 9mm service handguns. These handguns were to be issued to all sworn staff as part of their standard equipment. In order to ensure consistent and reliable training, the Sheriff's Office purchased 30 simunition training weapons in the same Smith & Wesson model. The simunition training weapons are expected to be received in early 2026. The Sheriff's Office intends to seek Board ratification of this purchase.

Any other equipment as determined by a governing body or a state agency to require additional oversight.

- The Board of Supervisors has not identified any additional items requiring oversight.