

# CHICO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## ANNUAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT USE REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2024-DECEMBER 31, 2024



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## Background

On September 30, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 481 (AB 481), on the acquisition and use of military equipment. This bill is codified in law under California Government Code Section 7070-7075 and establishes specific requirements of law enforcement agencies that seek to acquire, fund, or use equipment that the law has identified as “military equipment.”

Law enforcement agencies are required to obtain approval of the applicable governing body (City Council), by adopting a military equipment use policy. The Department is required to seek City Council approval of their military equipment use procedure by ordinance at a regular open meeting prior to taking certain actions relating to the funding, acquisition, or use of military equipment, as defined.

The ordinance is subject to the annual City Council review to determine whether, based on an annual military equipment use report, the standards set forth in the approving ordinance have been met. The City Council may renew the authorizing ordinance, disapprove authorization for particular military equipment where standards have not been met, or require modifications to the military equipment use policy to address any non-compliance with standards.

The law also requires publication of the military equipment use policy and the annual military equipment use report on the Department’s website. The military equipment use policy must be posted on the Department’s website at least 30 days prior to the Council meeting where the policy will be considered.

## Introduction

As required by Government Code 7072, City Ordinance and Chico Police Department Policy 709, the Chico Police Department must prepare an annual report on the use of each type of military equipment approved in the Policy over the last year.

This Annual Military Equipment Use Report outlines a summary of military equipment usage guidelines, inventory, fiscal impact, complaints, and reported concerns from **January 1, 2024-December 31, 2024.**



## **Executive Summary**

The Chico Police Department is committed to our core values of Integrity, Courage, and Respect. In alignment with these values, and our Mission of making our community safe “in partnership with the community,” we complete our statutorily mandated report on our use of Military Equipment with an aim of transparency, accountability, and efficiency.

In 2024, the Chico Police Department deployed “military equipment” in 136 incidents, the overwhelming majority of these were deployments of our unmanned aerial vehicles (drones), with some incidents deploying multiple types of equipment.

The Chico Police Department uses technology and equipment designed to enhance municipal law enforcement’s ability to ensure public safety. This equipment may meet the definition of “military equipment” as defined by Government Code 7070, but this does not necessarily mean equipment used by the military. Most of the equipment that we possess is commercially available equipment made for civilian or law enforcement use. As in previous years, the Chico Police Department did not acquire any tactical equipment from the military through the Defense Logistics Agency’s Law Enforcement Support Officer (LESO) 1033 program.

To enhance efficiency in reporting, we are realigning our reporting time frame to a traditional Calendar Year. Previously our annual report covered February-March. This time frame is not congruent with existing internal reporting or fiscal timelines. The result was significant staff time reconciling and calculating data. A January -December timeline parallels existing reporting requirements ensuring more accurate data collection. Because of this change, we may report data covered in the 2023-2024 annual report.

We are shifting our process to be more digital based and help with the efficiency and accuracy of reporting. Some of these efforts are ongoing and have already resulted in corrections of inventory and processes that contributed to correcting other gaps in reporting, as detailed in the audit section of this report.

The value of having this equipment readily available to the Chico Police Department was exceptionally demonstrated in a call for service that officers responded to on August 9, 2024. Officers responded to a residence in North Chico after neighbors told police a shooting had occurred. Officers determined a neighbor was firing their firearm and endangering the safety of neighbors. Officers attempted to negotiate the surrender of the subject who had refused to come out. Negotiators and SWAT team members were sent to resolve the situation. They used numerous pieces of “Military Equipment” including the LRAD, drones, and the deployment of other military equipment. The suspect was not stable, and several times fired their firearm, including directly at our Officers.



## **Executive Summary (Continued)**

Officers were able to stay in the ARV and continue negotiations while being shot at. Other Officers deployed chemical munitions and distractionary devices to deter the suspect from standing in a position and shooting at officers. Drones were used to give the incident commander the situational awareness to know the situation was contained. The deployment of this military equipment ensured our officers had other options besides deadly force even while encountering a scenario where the use of deadly force was justifiable. This equipment protected our Officers and allowed our Department to prioritize preserving the life of the suspect.

As with other areas of the Department, we are always looking to leverage technology to help us de-escalate these potentially deadly force encounters. Moving into this year, we are looking to acquire more Unmanned Remote Operated Vehicles, a Less-Lethal munition launcher, new precision rifles, and a robot. We are committed to using this equipment responsibly, within the confines of policy and the law, and complying with the provisions outlined in the relevant Government Codes.



## **Summary and Quantity of Military Equipment**

The following constitutes a list of military equipment possessed by the Department according to equipment type during calendar year 2024:

1. Unmanned, remotely piloted, powered aerial or ground vehicles (UAS/Drones/Robots)  
(Quantity: 17)
2. Armored personnel carriers/vehicles  
(Quantity: 1)
3. High Mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWV), commonly referred to as Humvees  
(Quantity: 0)
4. Tracked armored vehicles that provide ballistic protection  
(Quantity: 0)
5. Command and control vehicles that are either built or modified to facilitate the operational control and direction of public safety units  
(Quantity: 0)
6. Weaponized aircraft, vessels, or vehicles of any kind  
(Quantity: 0)
7. Battering rams, slugs, and breaching apparatuses that are explosive in nature(not including items designed to remove a lock, or a handheld ram designed to be operated by one person  
(Quantity: 2)
8. Firearms of .50 caliber or greater (not including standard issue shotguns)  
(Quantity: 0)
9. Ammunition of .50 caliber or greater (not including standard issue shotgun ammunition)  
(Quantity: 0)
10. Specialized firearms and ammunition of less than .50 caliber, including assault weapons as defined in Sec 30510 and 30515 of the Penal Code (not including standard issue service weapons and ammunition of less than .50 caliber that are issued to officers, agents, or other LEA personnel)  
(Firearms: 78)  
(Ammunition: Consumable item)



## **Summary and Quantity of Military Equipment (Continued)**

11. Any firearm or firearm accessory that is designed to launch explosive projectiles  
(Quantity: 4)
  
12. "Flashbang" grenades and explosive breaching tools, "tear gas" and "pepper balls",  
excluding standard, service-issued handheld pepper spray  
(Consumable item)
  
13. Taser shockwave, microwave weapons, water cannons, and the Long Range Acoustic  
Device (LRAD)  
(Quantity: 1)
  
14. Projectile launch platforms and their associated munition: 40mm projectile launchers,  
"bean bag", rubber bullet, and specialty impact munition (SIM) weapons  
(Quantity: 54)
  
15. Any other equipment as determined by a governing body or a state agency to require  
additional oversight.  
(Quantity: 0)



## Military Equipment Use

This section outlines the military equipment usage for January 2024 - December 2024 by Chico Police Department. Certain items of military equipment, particularly consumables (ammunition, diversionary devices, pepper balls, chemical agents, etc.) are used throughout the year on a regular basis for training in order to maintain proficiency. Training usage is NOT captured in this section. This section only provides data for the OPERATIONAL USE of military equipment listed within this annual report. The mere possession of the equipment does not warrant its use for every incident. The following is the data for military equipment usage by category for this reporting period:

### 1. Unmanned, remotely piloted, powered aerial or ground vehicles (UAS/Drones/Robots)

A) Unmanned Aerial Systems, also commonly referred to as "drones" were utilized a total of **300** times during this reporting period.

Authorized uses (drones):

- Collection of evidence in the form of aerial photography/video in support of an investigation (i.e., shooting scenes, homicide scenes.)
- Support of SWAT and Patrol during high risk, tactical or other public safety life-preservation missions (i.e., interior visual assessments of structures or outdoor areas to gain intelligence prior to officers entering a dwelling or contacting a potentially armed, or resistive subject that may be hiding).
- Conduct aerial searches for missing persons.
- Provide aerial observation to assist in managing natural disasters (i.e., fires, floods).
- Response to report of an armed subject.

B) Remotely piloted ground vehicle, also commonly referred to as "robots" were utilized a total of **2** times during this reporting period.

Authorized uses (robots):

- Response to report of an armed subject

### 2. Armored personnel carrier/vehicle (BearCat G2)

The Bearcat G2 (armored vehicle) was utilized a total of **5** times during this reporting period.

Authorized uses:

- Service of a high risk search warrant
- Response to report of an armed subject
- Apprehension of barricaded subject



10. Specialized firearms and ammunition of less than .50 caliber, including assault weapons as defined in Sec 30510 and 30515 of the Penal Code (not including standard issue service weapons and ammunition of less than .50 caliber that are issued to officers, agents, or other LEA personnel)

Specialized firearms and ammunition less than .50 caliber was utilized a total of **1** time during this reporting period.

Authorized uses:

- Search for wanted subjects
- Apprehension of armed subject

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

Firearm accessory (launching cup) designed to launch explosive projectiles was utilized a total of **12** times during this reporting period.

Authorized uses:

- Apprehension of a barricaded subject

12. "Flashbang" grenades and explosive breaching tools, "tear gas" and "pepper balls", excluding standard, service-issued handheld pepper spray

A) Non-Flamable Distraction/Diversionsary Device ("Flashbangs") were utilized a total of **4** times during this reporting period.

Authorized uses:

- Apprehension of a barricaded subject

B) Smoke Cannisters/Chemical agents were utilized a total of **14** times during this reporting period.

Authorized uses:

- Apprehension of a barricaded subject



### 13. Taser shockwave, microwave weapons, water cannons, and the Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD)

The Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD) was utilized a total of **2** times during this reporting period.

Authorized uses:

- Service of a high risk search warrant
- Apprehension of a barricaded subject

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

37mm/40mm less lethal launchers were utilized a total of **51** times during this reporting period.

Authorized uses:

- Response to report of an armed subject
- Apprehension of an armed barricaded subject



## Summary of Complaints or Concerns

Chico Police Department is committed to responding to complaints, concerns and/or questions received through any of the above methods in a timely manner.

There were **0 formal complaints**, or officer involved shootings related to the use of military equipment as investigated by Chico Police Department's Professional Standards Unit during this reporting period.

Pursuant to California Government Code §7070(d){7}, members of the public may register complaints or concerns or submit questions about the use of each specific type of military equipment in this policy by any of the following means:

1. Via email to: [internalaffairs@chicoca.gov](mailto:internalaffairs@chicoca.gov)
2. Via phone call to: 530-897-5851
3. Via mail sent to: Chico Police Department - Professional Standards Unit, 1460 Humboldt Rd, Chico, CA 95928



## **Internal Inspections, Policy Violations, and Reponses**

Inspections were conducted, including inventory checks, in person checks and a review of acquisitions of military equipment, pursuant to Chico Police Department policy. Discrepancies are noted below. From a review of the discrepancies, it is evident that some procedural processes need to be improved as to accurate inventory reporting as well as training outside of the executive core. The discrepancies could have been mitigated if more than just senior management understood the reporting, budgeting, and acquisition rules.

### **Equipment Inspected: Unmanned Aerial Systems**

#### Results:

- (2) DJI Neo drones were purchased and in possession of the UAS Team. These were purchased in October 2024 and were not identified in the previous annual report as future acquisitions and purchase was not requested through the annual policy review. The drones were purchased for Training and Evaluation and never deployed in the field. A technical violation of the policy, the drones were believed to not necessitate prior permission due to only being a T/E purchase.
- The 2023-2024 Military Use Policy Inventory detailed the UAS Team as having (5) DJI Mavic Mini drones. The current inspection revealed that the Team has, and only ever possessed, (4) of these drones. It is unclear why in 2023-2024 there were 5 reported, the first Annual Report accurately reported (4) Mini drones.

#### Action Taken:

- The DJI Neo drones were added to the inventory for Calendar 2024. Training will be provided to all administrators and managers of reporting teams down-to-the-line level officer of the units, detailing acquisition requirements as mandated by the Policy. Approval sought for this and (2) more DJI Neo drones.
- The 2024 Military Equipment Use Policy Inventory list was corrected to reflect only (4) DJI Mavic Mini drones in inventory.
- Training will be provided on proper approval for acquisition, purchase, and reporting of Military Equipment.
- New inspection, inventory and reporting process are being developed for implementation in 2025



## **Internal Inspections, Policy Violations, and Reponses (Continued)**

### **Equipment Inspected: 37mm/40mm Launchers and Munitions**

#### Results:

- Defense Technology 40mm Single Shot Launcher- Inspection discovered that the quantity previously reported for this launcher (23) was incorrect. There are only (22) 40mm Single Shot Launchers in the inventory.

#### Action Taken:

- The 2024 Military Equipment Use Policy Inventory list was corrected to reflect (22) 40mm Single Shot Launchers in inventory.
- New inspection, inventory and reporting process are being developed for implementation in 2025

### **Equipment Inspected: Rifles and Munitions**

#### Results:

- Sionics SAR-15 Patrol Rifle- Inspection discovered the quantity previously reported for this rifle system was incorrect; the inventory list for 2023-2024 reported 71 rifles. There are 72 rifles in the inventory.
- Master Piece Arms MPA LE/BA- Inspection discovered 2 of these rifles currently in inventory that were not previously documented. These rifles were purchased in 2023 and should have been subject of approval prior to purchase and reporting post purchase.

#### Action Taken:

- The Calendar 2024 Military Equipment Use Policy Inventory list was corrected to reflect (72) Sionics SAR-15 Patrol Rifles in inventory.
- The Master Piece Arms MPA LE/BA .308 caliber precision rifles have been added to the Calendar 2024 Military Equipment Use Policy Inventory list to reflect (2) in inventory.
- New inspection, inventory and reporting process are being developed for implementation in 2025



## **Internal Inspections, Policy Violations, and Reponses (Continued)**

### **Equipment Inspected:**

#### **Launching Cup**

##### Results:

- Combined Tactical Systems LC5 Launching Cup- Inspection discovered the quantity previously reported for this equipment was incorrect. The 2023-2024 Military Equipment Policy Inventory listed (2) in inventory; there are currently (4) in inventory. These were purchased in December 2024 and should have been subject of approval prior to purchase and reporting post purchase.

##### Action Taken:

- The Calendar 2024 Military Equipment Use Policy Inventory list was corrected to reflect (4) Combined Tactical Systems LC5 Launching Cups in inventory.
- New inspection, inventory and reporting process are being developed for implementation in 2025 training will be provided on proper approval for acquisition, purchase, and reporting of Military Equipment.

### **Equipment Inspected:**

#### **PepperBall Launchers and Munitions**

##### Results:

- PepperBall Launchers- Inspection discovered that the PepperBall launchers were improperly identified as Tippman SA200 PepperBall Launchers. The Department purchased (7) PepperBall FTC Launchers in 2022 replacing the existing (4) Tippman SA 200 launchers; the SA 200s were destroyed in 2022. The SA 200s were counted as being part of inventory and resulted in an erroneous quantity of (11) launchers reported. There are currently only (7) PepperBall FTC Launchers in inventory.

##### Action Taken:

- The Calendar 2024 Military Equipment Use Policy Inventory list was corrected to reflect (7) PepperBall FTC launchers in inventory.
- New inspection, inventory and reporting process are being developed for implementation in 2025.



### Fiscal Impact

The following details the fiscal impact of military equipment as it pertains to acquisition, maintenance and other ongoing costs, for calendar year 2024. Additionally, the funding source for those funds is identified. None of this equipment has personnel assigned to it full-time. Use of this equipment is part of the ancillary duties for specific personnel, as such personnel costs are not included in these figures. Associated training costs are detailed separately within this report.

	Category	2024 Purchases and Ongoing Maintenance	2024 Capital Projects for Future Replacement	Funding Source
1	Unmanned, Remotely Piloted, Powered Aerial or Ground Vehicles	\$6,725	\$25,750	Fund 001 - General Fund Fund 934 - Prefunding Equipment Fund 005 - Measure H
2	Vehicles or Armored Personnel Carriers - Bearcat	\$0	\$0	Fund 001 - General Fund
3	High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (Humvee)	N/A	N/A	N/A
4	Tracked Armored Vehicles	N/A	N/A	N/A
5	Command and Control Vehicles	N/A	N/A	N/A
6	Weaponized Aircraft, Vessels, or Vehicles	N/A	N/A	N/A
7	Battering Rams, Slugs, and Explosive Breaching Apparatuses	\$0	\$0	Fund 001 - General Fund
8	Firearms of .50 Caliber or Greater, Excluding Standard Issue Shotguns	\$0	\$0	Fund 001 - General Fund
9	Ammunition of .50 Caliber or Greater, Excluding Standard Issue Shotgun Ammunition	\$0	\$0	Fund 001 - General Fund
10	Specialized Firearms and Ammunition of Less Than .50 Caliber, Excluding Standard Issue Service Weapons and Ammunition	\$83,373	\$0	Fund 001 - General Fund
11	Firearm or Accessory to Launch Explosive Projectiles	\$0	\$0	Fund 001 - General Fund
12	Flashbang Grenades, Tear Gas, and Pepperballs, Excluding Standard Issue Handheld Pepper Spray	\$8,741	\$0	Fund 001 - General Fund
13	Taser Shockwave, Microwave Weapons, Water Cannons, and Long Range Acoustic Devices (LRAD)	\$0	\$0	Fund 001 - General Fund
14	40MM Projectile Launchers, Bean Bag, Rubber Bullet and Specialty Impact Munition (SIM) Weapons	\$12,375	\$0	Fund 001 - General Fund
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$111,214</b>	<b>\$25,750</b>	



## **Training Summary**

The safe and proficient use of military equipment requires countless hours of initial and on-going training as well as required certifications. Most training for department personnel is conducted internally by department personnel to ensure adherence to law and policy. There are times when department personnel are sent to external training courses to enhance and supplement internal trainings and to obtain trainer certifications. Consumable and non-consumable equipment are used during training to ensure proficiency and competency during real-life emergencies.

The following is a breakdown of training costs associated with authorized military equipment. The personnel cost of training is captured in the department's general operating budget to include line-items in the Training Unit budget as well as individual department units who train to utilize authorized military equipment.

<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Number of Employees</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Firearms Instructor	5	\$2,162
Unmanned Aerial Systems	2	\$4,208
SWAT Training	3	\$5,100
Rural Sniper Training	1	\$349
Less Lethal Instructor	2	\$1,057
Tactical Breacher	2	\$3,900
Rifle Marksmanship	1	\$860
Rifle Design, Function, and Repair	3	\$289.50
Chemical Agent Instructor	1	\$1,102
Diversionsary Device Instructor	2	\$884



## **Projected Acquisitions for 2025**

While some purchases and acquisitions can be anticipated, the unanticipated replacement of existing military equipment may be necessary due to damage beyond that of repair. Replacement of these items will be handled on a case-by-case basis dependent on operational and departmental need and will be in accordance with department policy and Government Code 7071.

### **Categories of consumables are as follows:**

- Ammunition- all calibers
- Diversionary Devices
- Chemical Agents and Smoke Canisters
- Specialty Munitions (40mm and Less Lethal Munitions)
- Pepperball projectiles

### **Non-consumable Military Equipment**

Request for acquisition of non-consumable Military Equipment:

<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
40mm Less-Lethal and Chemical Agent Launcher	1
DJI Neo Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (drone)	2
DJI Matrice Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (drone)	1
Unmanned Ground Vehicle (remote control car)	4
Masterpiece Arms Bolt Action Rifle (.308 rifle)	2
Police Patrol Rifles	15
Incident Command Vehicles	3

The Department will be exploring potential costs and sources of funding (grants) to determine the feasibility of obtaining the listed equipment:

<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Boston Dynamics Agile Mobile Robot	1



## **CONCLUSION**

This Annual Military Equipment Use Report is intended to adhere to the law and CPD policy and demonstrate our commitment to transparency by providing information to our community and elected officials. The equipment, resources, and training outlined in this report advance Chico Police Officers' efforts to protect our community and enhance the safety of our officers. We believe that responsible use of the equipment described in this report enhances our ability to deliver the highest level of professional, efficient and effective service when faced with critical incidents requiring a thoughtful law enforcement response.

General Contact information:

Office of Professional Standards

1. Via email to: [internalaffairs@chicoca.gov](mailto:internalaffairs@chicoca.gov)
2. Via phone call to: 530-897-5851

For more information on CPD Military Equipment visit:

<https://chico.ca.us/documents/City-Services/Public-Safety/Police-Department/Annual-Military-Equipment-Use-Report>