



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER**

**Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Agenda Number:**

**Submitted on:  
(COB Stamp)**

<b>Department Name:</b>	Sheriff-Coroner
<b>Department No.:</b>	032
<b>Agenda Date:</b>	<b>Administrative (set hearing):</b> June 9, 2026 <b>Departmental (first reading):</b> June 23, 2026 <b>Administrative (second reading):</b> July 7, 2026
<b>Placement:</b>	Administrative Agenda
<b>Estimated Time:</b>	30 MINUTES ON JUNE 23, 2026
<b>Continued Item:</b>	No
<b>If Yes, date from:</b>	<Insert Date>
<b>Vote Required:</b>	Majority

**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director: Bill Brown, Sheriff  
 Contact: Juan Camarena, Lieutenant  
**SUBJECT: Renewal of the Sheriff Office’s Military Equipment Use of Ordinance**

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

On June 9, 2026:

- a. Set a hearing for June 23, 2026 to consider the introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance to re-adopt and amend the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office Military Equipment Use Policy.

On June 23, 2026:

- a. Receive and file a presentation regarding an Ordinance re-adopting and amending the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office Military Equipment Use Policy;
- b. Receive and file the annual military equipment report;
- c. Consider and approve the introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance to re-adopt and amend the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office Military Equipment Use Policy;

- d. Read the title of the Ordinance and waive full reading of the Ordinance;
- e. Continue the time to the Administrative Agenda of July 7, 2026 to consider the adoption (Second Reading) of an Ordinance adopting the Military Equipment Use Policy.

On July 7, 2026:

- a. Consider and approve the adoption of the Ordinance (Second Reading) to re-adopt and amend the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office Military Equipment Use Policy; and
- b. Determine that the activity is not a "Project" subject to CEQA review per CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(5), since the activity is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

On May 17, 2022, the Board approved the Santa Barbara County Sheriff Office's military equipment use policy (Attachment 1) through the adoption of Ordinance No. 5157 (Attachment 3). Adopting this ordinance allowed the Sheriff's Office to use and acquire military equipment, which is defined under Government Code §7070 and includes armored vehicles, large-caliber firearms, kinetic energy projectiles, breaching tools, or "flashbang" distraction devices.

Assembly Bill 481 requires the Board to annually review the previously adopted ordinance, and decide whether to renew the ordinance [Gov. Code, § 7071(e)].

**Discussion:**

Per Government Code §7071, a law enforcement agency must receive approval from a governing body through the adoption of the policy by an ordinance before taking certain actions relating to the funding, acquisition, or use of military equipment, such as requesting military equipment, obtaining funds for military equipment, acquiring military equipment permanently or temporarily, collaborating with another law enforcement agency in use of military equipment, using military equipment for a purpose or by a person that was not previously approved to do so, and soliciting or responding to a proposal for receiving, acquiring, using military equipment.

On June 23, 2026, the Board will consider re-adoption of the ordinance (Attachment 4) approving the military equipment use policy (Attachment 1) and the updated inventory list (Attachment 2).

The Board may re-adopt the ordinance approving the policy if it determines the following:

- Military equipment use is necessary because there is no reasonable alternative that can achieve the same objective of safety.
- Military equipment use policy safeguards the public's welfare, safety, civil rights, and civil liberties.
- Military equipment is reasonably cost effective compared to alternatives that can achieve the same objective.
- Military equipment used before this resolution complied with use policy effective at the time of use, or corrective action is taken to remedy nonconforming uses and ensure future compliance with relevant use policy.

In determining whether the military equipment complied with the military equipment use policy, the Sheriff's Office prepared an annual report (Attachment 2). The report includes the following:

- A summary of how the military equipment was used and its purpose;
- A summary of complaints or concerns received concerning the military equipment;
- The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the military equipment use policy, and any actions taken in response; and
- 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.

The Board's re-adoption of the ordinance will permit the Sheriff's Office use and acquisition of military equipment for the following year.

**Background:**

Assembly Bill 481 is intended to increase transparency, accountability, and oversight surrounding the acquisition and use of military equipment by state and local law enforcement through the governing body's adoption of an ordinance approving the military equipment use policy. Of note, AB 481 not only applies to actual military equipment, but also to law enforcement equipment that law makers felt should require additional oversight.

The Military Equipment Annual Report and Inventory addresses the quantity of each type of military equipment possessed by the Sheriff's Office, the cost associated with the equipment, and a summary of how the equipment was used, and whether any complaints or concerns were received about the equipment. The military equipment is utilized by the Sheriff's Bomb Unit and SWAT team to remotely gain visual, 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.

The policy describes the "military equipment," identifies uses for the military equipment, indicates the fiscal impact of the equipment, provides rules governing the authorized use of the equipment, sets forth the training requirements, details the mechanism to ensure compliance with the policy, and lists procedures by which the public may register complaints about the use of military equipment.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

There are no fiscal impacts associated with the recommended actions.

**Special Instructions:**

After the Set Hearing, Sheriff's Office to satisfy publishing requirement in accordance with Government Code section 6062 and 6066.

Clerk of the Board shall post a copy of the Ordinance on the County's internet web site or post a certified copy of the full text in the office of the Clerk of the Board **five days** before the First Reading.

On or before June 9, 2026, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office (SBSO) will post the military equipment use policy, annual report, and inventory on the SBSO website. Within **30 days after** the posting, SBSO will hold a community engagement meeting regarding this policy.

After the Second Reading on July 9, 2026, direct the Clerk of the Board to:

1. Send a copy of the Minute Order of these actions to the SBSO, Attn: Lt. Juan Camarena – [jmc2819@sbsheriff.org](mailto:jmc2819@sbsheriff.org)
2. The Sheriff's Office shall publish a summary of the ordinance in the *Santa Barbara Independent* and *Santa Maria Times* (or other available publications) within **15 days** of the adoption of the ordinance in accordance with Government Code section 25124.

**Attachments:**

Attachment 1: Military Equipment Use Policy

Attachment 2: Military Equipment Annual Report & Inventory

Attachment 3: Military Equipment Use Ordinance No. 5157

Attachment 4: Military Equipment Use Ordinance

**Contact Information:**

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