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## 26.0 FIREARMS

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### 26.01 PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of this policy to provide members with guidelines associated with the use, maintenance, and safety of Department authorized firearms and the qualification requirements related to firearms.

### 26.02 POLICY

- A. It is the policy of this Department that members shall adhere to the requirements established herein in order to ensure the safe handling and use of firearms.

### 26.03 DEFINITIONS

- A. *Authorized Firearm*: Any make, model, or caliber of firearm that meets this Department's designated requirements and specifications, which has been formally approved by the Chief of Police for use by sworn law enforcement members. This includes primary service handguns, backup handguns, shotguns, and rifles used for law enforcement purposes.
- B. *Primary Service Handgun*: The firearm authorized by this Department to be carried as part of the service uniform and related equipment for uniformed members or the authorized firearm to be carried by plainclothes members unless one of the authorized alternates is authorized.
- C. *Backup Handgun*: Any authorized handgun other than the primary service handgun that is carried in a concealed manner.
- D. *Firearms Qualification*: Periodic testing required of members to determine their competency to carry authorized firearms.
- E. *Rangemaster*: Any qualified firearms instructor assigned by the Department.
- F. *Senior Rangemaster*: Rangemaster designated by the Chief of Police to oversee the Department's firearms program.

### 26.04 PROCEDURES

- A. General Provisions
  1. Members shall only carry authorized firearms when on-duty.
  2. Members shall carry their badge and Department identification while armed and on-duty.
  3. Only ammunition that has been approved by this Department shall be used in authorized firearms.
  4. Only sworn members who have successfully passed firearms qualification and the WLEA, or its equivalent, shall be authorized to carry a firearm on-duty.
- B. Primary Service Handgun
  1. The primary service handgun designated for this Department is the Model Glock 19.
  2. The primary service handgun shall be carried in accordance with the uniform and related requirements and as otherwise specified by this policy.
    - a. There may be instances when members are unable to show proficiency with the issued Model 19 or the Department's Senior Rangemaster determines the Model 19 does not suitably fit a member and alternate model will be chosen for the member by the Department. In such an instance, an authorized alternate may be issued to the member and an

associated holster, and magazine pouch will also be provided by the Department.

- b. A member issued the Glock 19 as their primary service handgun, may choose to carry an authorized alternate with the permission of the Operations Lieutenant and Senior Rangemaster provided that:
  - (1) The member be responsible for the purchase of the firearm as well as the associated holster and magazine pouch.
  - (2) The firearm be equipped with approved sights.
  - (3) The weapon be inspected by a Department armorer prior to on-duty use.
- c. Authorized alternate service handguns are as follows:
  - (1) Full-sized or compact Glock model handguns chambered in 9mm, or .45 auto, with a barrel length of no less than 3.8” barrel and no greater than 5.5.” The handgun must contain original parts from the manufacture with a trigger pull of no less than 5 lbs.
  - (2) No other makes or calibers are authorized for on-duty carry.
- d. Members on special assignment, training, or members with an articulable need may request authorization from a sergeant to carry alternate service firearms, backup firearms, or alternate ammunition on an ongoing or periodic basis.

#### C. Rifles

1. Only Department issued rifles will be used for on-duty use.
2. The designated patrol rifle for this Department is an AR-15 variant chambered for 5.56/.223.
3. Patrol rifles shall be carried in a secure rack as provided in patrol vehicles, in a “patrol-ready” state – chamber empty, safety off, and trigger depressed unless it is not practical to do so.
4. If the rifle was issued with a suppressor, it should not be removed except for cleaning and maintenance.
5. Rifles used by the Police Marksman/Observer Team will be governed under policy 15.0.

#### D. Shotguns

1. Only Department issued shotguns will be used for on-duty use.
2. The designated shotgun for this Department is the 12 gauge, Remington 870.
3. Shotguns shall be carried in a secure rack as provided in patrol vehicles, in a “patrol-ready” state – chamber empty, safety off, and trigger depressed unless it is not practical to do so.
4. Shotguns shall only be used with less-lethal ammunition authorized and issued by this Department and no other shotgun ammunition shall be kept in the vehicle or on the member’s person.

#### E. Backup Firearms

1. Sworn members are permitted to carry backup firearms, provided:
  - a. Each member who chooses to carry a backup firearm must receive specific written authorization from the Chief of Police. That authorization shall include a full description, including serial number, make, model and caliber of the weapon intended to be carried.
  - b. Reasonable efforts must be made to carry the backup weapon in a concealed and secure manner.

- c. Members shall qualify with their backup weapon prior to carrying it and annually thereafter.

F. Off-Duty Firearms

1. Members are encouraged to carry an authorized firearm while off-duty, but are not required to do so except when in uniform or when operating a marked patrol vehicle whether on or off-duty.
2. Reasonable efforts should be made to carry the off-duty firearm in a concealed and secure manner.
3. When armed and off-duty, members are encouraged to carry their badge and agency identification.

G. Firearms Qualifications

1. All members authorized to carry firearms shall be required to qualify with each authorized firearm on an annual basis. Quarterly qualification is a desirable objective.
2. All members shall qualify according to the WLEA qualification guidelines with a minimum score of 80% in four (4) attempts.
  - a. All members are expected to arrive at range qualifications with ballistic vest, eye protection, and ear protection.
  - b. All members shall clean their weapons as soon as is practical following each range.
3. All members who fail to qualify, shall meet the following requirements within 30 days:
  - a. Receive remedial firearms training.
  - b. Successfully pass the WLEA qualification with a minimum score of 80% in four (4) attempts.
4. The Senior Rangemaster will notify the Operations Lieutenant in the event that any member fails to qualify after having received remedial training.
  - a. Additional attempts will be allowed at the discretion of the Operations Lieutenant.
5. Any member who fails to qualify with a firearm that is not required for the member's duty assignment shall not be permitted to carry that firearm on-duty.
6. Members shall be issued fresh duty ammunition in the specified quantity for their firearms during the member's first scheduled qualification each year. When needed in accordance with established policy, the armorer shall dispense replacements for defective or depleted ammunition.
7. Members shall be required to qualify with their primary service handgun and additional firearms (as appropriate) following return to duty after a leave of absence when it reasonably appears necessary or if they have missed their qualification date.
8. Pregnant members shall notify the department if they are pregnant. They shall be informed of the potential risks to the fetus associated with lead and noise toxicity during firearms qualification. Should the member choose to qualify, the Department shall take such precautionary measures reasonably possible to reduce potential contamination from these sources.

H. Firearms Modifications

1. Modifications to any Department authorized firearm that alter the weapon's function and appearance are not authorized. The Senior Rangemaster may authorize the following items without violating this policy:

- a. Grip covers for pistols
    - b. Items classified as, “Furniture,” for patrol rifles
    - c. Slings
    - d. Non-magnified optics
    - e. Lights
  2. Defective, unsafe, or unauthorized firearms shall be reported to any Department armorer and that information relayed to a Department Rangemaster.
  3. Repairs or alterations to agency-authorized firearms shall be made only by an armorer employed or authorized by this Department.
  4. Authorized firearms shall be maintained in a clean and safe operating condition and shall be inspected annually, and at periodic intervals, as determined by the Department Rangemasters.
- I. Firearms Safety
1. Members shall not carry a firearm when on or off-duty if they are mentally or physically impaired to a degree they are unable to safely handle and operate the weapon.
  2. Members shall report, in writing, to their immediate supervisor any use of prescription drugs or other medication or any physical ailment or injury that they reasonably believe could impair their ability or judgment to use a firearm while on-duty.
  3. Members shall take reasonable precautions to store their authorized firearms when off-duty so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.
    - a. Shotguns and rifles may remain secured in racks in patrol vehicles unless the member reasonably believes they are not safe there; in which case, the member shall take reasonable precautions to secure them so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.
  4. Members are encouraged to store their personal weapons so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons. Members shall be responsible for the safe storage of their authorized and personally owned firearms when not in their personal possession.
  5. All authorized firearms shall be carried in a safe and secure manner as authorized by this Department.
    - a. Uniformed patrol shall carry the primary service handgun in a level 2 holster at minimum.
    - b. Level 1 holsters are authorized for concealed backup handguns, detectives, or plain clothes assignments or training.
  6. Removal of firearms from their holster or other carrying devices for a purpose other than an authorized purpose—such as tactical use, training and qualification, inspection, or cleaning and maintenance—is prohibited. Any careless or unprofessional use or display of a firearm shall constitute grounds for discipline or termination.
  7. Firearms shall not be permitted in the secure areas of the Teton County Detention Center’s booking, holding, or general population areas unless authorized by the Sheriff, or their designee, pursuant to Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 6-5-209(a).
  8. Each year during firearms qualification, the range master should provide members with refresher training, and additional information as available, concerning firearms safety and this policy.