

# St. Joseph, Missouri Police Department



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SUBJECT: <b>Special Purpose Vehicles</b>		
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## I. POLICY:

It is the policy of this Department to maintain special purpose vehicles. This policy is to provide guidelines for the use of the Department's special purpose vehicles. This policy does not pertain to vehicle maintenance personnel who must operate the vehicle(s) for repair/service, or in the case of an emergency.

## II. PROCEDURE:

### A. Objectives and Conditions of Use:

1. **Canine Vehicles:** Used to safely transport police canines and handlers to and from work related duties (See also Special Order governing K-9 Operations).
2. **Command Post:** Used as a logistics base during large events/unusual operations.
3. **Firearms Training Vehicle:** Used by the Department Armorer to repair firearms and transport department weapons and/or ammunition to and from the Range.
4. **Police Bicycles:** Used for traffic-enforcement, surveillance, parades, and general patrol work, when their usage would be an advantage over other types of vehicles (See also Special Order governing Police Bicycles).
5. **Police Motorcycles:** Used for traffic-enforcement and should be mainly used for enforcement duties and other special events where mobility is needed in congested areas (See also Special Order governing Police Motorcycles).
6. **Transport Vehicle:** Used to supplement the prisoner transport function provided by standard police vehicles.
7. **Armored Vehicle:** Used by the SRT for tactical situations and deployment purposes.
8. **Special Response Vehicle (SRV Van):** Used for the transportation of the SRT and other personnel in response to critical incidents.

9. **Trail/Utility Vehicles:** Used for the patrol of public parks and trails, as well as transport vehicles for personnel and equipment in special-needs situations.

**B. Persons Authorized to Use Special Purpose Vehicles:**

Members shall receive documented training on the special nature of each vehicle prior to their operation.

1. **Canine Vehicles:** Canine members assigned to the vehicles shall be the only persons to operate a canine vehicle unless extenuating/emergency situations apply. Any canine member can authorize any sworn member to operate the vehicle in these circumstances.
2. **Mobile Command Post:** Any sworn member who has received orientation may operate the Command Post. A Department member/s will be designated as custodian/s of the Mobile Command Post. Non-emergency uses of the MCP require prior authorization of a custodian.
3. **Firearms Training Vehicle:** Only the Department Armorer or other Firearms Instructors will operate the Firearms Training Vehicle.
4. **Police Bicycles:** Any sworn member that has completed a department approved training course and/or has been cleared by the Training Instructor may operate a police bicycle.
5. **Police Motorcycles:** Only member(s) assigned to the motorcycle who are motorcycle qualified and/or have attended the Police Motorcycle Operator's Training Course may operate a police motorcycle. Extenuating circumstances may arise in which a qualified operator may utilize another member's motorcycle.
6. **Transport Vehicle:** Any member may utilize the transport vehicle when necessary and with proper supervisory approval.
7. **Armored Vehicle:** Authorized SRT personnel and other authorized/trained personnel in response to critical or priority incidents.
8. **SRV Van:** SRT personnel and other authorized/trained personnel in response to critical or priority incidents.
9. **Trail/Utility Vehicles:** Any member or volunteer may operate these vehicles upon assignment by or approval of a Department supervisor.

**C. Equipment and Maintenance:**

Department Special Purpose Vehicles often will not contain a permanently mounted two-way radio requiring the operator to possess a portable unit. Special Vehicles will contain the following equipment:

1. **Canine Vehicles:**

- a. Operating emergency equipment.
- b. Cages separating the dog from vehicle occupants.

The assigned K-9 Handler is the only person who shall control the animal except during emergencies (if the Handler is incapacitated/unable to do so). In such situations, Animal Control or another K-9 Handler will take control of the animal. K-9 Handlers that are assigned to the vehicle are responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the vehicle and its equipment.

2. **Command Post:**

- a. Two-way radio/s with the capability of inter-agency communication.

- b. Radio chargers and other items required for extended off-site incident command situations; and
- c. Command boards/situation maps available for planning and response in major incidents.

The sworn members assigned to the vehicle are responsible for its upkeep and equipment maintenance DURING the operation.

**3. Firearms Training Vehicle:**

- a. Appropriate firearms repair equipment; and
- b. Appropriate ammunition (during range training)

The Department Armorer is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the vehicle and its equipment.

**4. Police Bicycles:**

- a. Tire pump.
- b. Lights (Headlight and Taillight); and
- c. Allen wrenches; and other appropriate repair tools.

Several different members share each bicycle. It is their responsibility to clean, repair, and otherwise maintain their assigned bicycle and its equipment.

**5. Police Motorcycles:**

- a. Radar; and
- b. Operating emergency equipment (lights and siren).

**6. Transport Vehicle:**

- a. Transport box with restraints.

**7. SRV Van/ Armored Vehicle:**

- a. Equipment designated for response to critical incidents.
- b. Operable emergency equipment (lights and siren)
- c. Other specialized equipment as directed by the SRT Commander, excluding those items that may be compromised by long-term exposure.

**8. Trail/Utility Vehicles:**

These units may have equipment assigned to them based on situational use; however, they will not normally contain any additional resources.

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Paul Luster, Chief of Police

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Date