



LONDON N. BREED
MAYOR

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
POLICE DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS
1245 3RD Street
San Francisco, California, 94158



WILLIAM SCOTT
CHIEF OF POLICE

July 15, 2024

Supervisor Dean Preston
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Supervisor Preston:

RE: Inquiry regarding Law Enforcement Equipment Policy 2023 Annual Report

Please see the information below in response to your letter of inquiry regarding the San Francisco Police Department's 2023 Law Enforcement Equipment Policy Annual Report, pursuant to California Government Code 7072.

1. Within its 2023 Annual Report, the SFPD described its use of military equipment and stated that it "intends to explore the use of Spot™ - The Agile Mobile Robot from Boston Dynamics," i.e., a robot police dog.
 - a. When does the SFPD intend to acquire this equipment?
RESPONSE: The department has not decided to acquire this equipment but received a virtual demonstration from the vendor on March 18, 2024.
 - b. How many "Spot" robot dogs does the SFPD intend to acquire?
RESPONSE: The department has not decided to acquire this equipment, but the discussion has been around whether one Spot would assist officers with critical incidents where the terrain may be too challenging for the current inventory of unmanned, remotely piloted, powered ground vehicle.
 - c. What is the rationale for acquiring this equipment?
RESPONSE: The department has not acquired this equipment nor has a decision been made to acquire this equipment. The department is in the exploration phase. This equipment can handle challenging terrains, move at a max speed of 3 mph, is programmable, has dynamic reaction ability and with certain attachments may be able to open doors without damaging property. This equipment also has a 360-degree view of its environment and includes thermal imaging capabilities that could serve invaluable in search and rescue and critical incident situations.
 - d. What is the intended use of this equipment?
RESPONSE: If this equipment is acquired, the use would align with the approved [AB 481 Policy](#), Section A(5). If acquired, this equipment would be

utilized during training and simulations, criminal apprehensions, critical incidents, exigent circumstances, executing a warrant or during suspicious device assessments. This equipment will not be used as a deadly force option.

- e. What is the approximate cost for this equipment?

RESPONSE: \$269,800

2. Please provide a detailed estimate of total costs, as well as a timeline for acquisition of the military equipment the SFPD intends to acquire. Please include whether the SFPD included this planned expense in its budget requests, and whether that was funded.
RESPONSE: The annual report correlating to the approved policy reports the total annual cost for each type of military equipment, including acquisition, personnel, training, transportation, maintenance, storage, upgrade, and other ongoing costs, and the source of funding for the equipment in the calendar year following submission of the annual report. This information is required by AB 481 (Gov. Code 7072(a)(4)) and in S.F. Admin Code 96H. The annual report also notes whether the department intends to acquire additional equipment in the approved category (Gov. Code 7072(a)(6)). As noted in the annual report, these items are part of the operational budget and do not have specified line items in the budget. The operational budget has not been approved yet.

Any equipment type/category not covered in the approved policy should have its own use policy proposed to and approved by the Board of Supervisors. A proposed use policy requires the inclusion of the fiscal impact.

3. On page 10 of its annual report, the SFPD notes that several categories of equipment, "were not included in the use policy or the annual report as the SFPD did not acquire or maintain these items prior to January 1, 2022." Is it the SFPD's position that it does not have to report on or seek approval of its use policy for military equipment acquired after that date under AB 481?
RESPONSE: In part, AB 481 required all California Law Enforcement agencies to have a use policy allowing the continued use of military equipment acquired prior to January 1, 2022. The use policy approved by the Board of Supervisors in Ordinance No. 257-22 on December 22, 2022, addressed the equipment the department had acquired prior to January 1, 2022. The annual report correlates with that approved use policy. The annual report allows for annual review to ensure the Department is compliant with the approved use policy.

It is the department's understanding that categories of equipment acquired after January 1, 2022, which are not included in the initial use policy must obtain Board of Supervisors approval of a use policy prior to acquiring that equipment.

If/when additional use policies are approved by ordinance, an annual report correlating to that use policy would be submitted within a year of the use policy's approval.

It is the department's understanding that if the department does not have the type/category of AB 481 defined equipment, there is no need for a use policy and if there is no use policy, there is no need to include it in its annual report.

4. Please provide information on the inventory and stock of any of the following items, including a name, description, price, and date of acquisition for any of the following items:

- a. Unmanned, remotely piloted aerial vehicles (drones).

RESPONSE:

(2) DJI Mavic 3E Drones. The Mavic 3E is an Enterprise series quadcopter, primarily for exterior use.

(2) DJI Mavic 3T Drones. The Mavic 3T is an Enterprise series quadcopter, primarily for exterior use.

(2) DJI Avata "2" Drones. The Avata 2 is a quadcopter, primarily for interior use.

Total Drones (6)

Date of Acquisition: 5/1/2024

Total for equipment: \$35,053.89

Total for peripherals (batteries, light kits, launch/landing pad): \$3,685.10

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

RESPONSE: As noted in the use policy and the correlating annual report, the Department does not have this equipment.

- c. Weaponized aircraft, vessels, or vehicles of any kind.

RESPONSE: As noted in the use policy and the correlating annual report, the Department does not have this equipment.

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

RESPONSE: As noted in the use policy and the correlating annual report, the Department does not have this equipment.

- e. Ammunition of .50 caliber or greater. However, standard-issue shotgun ammunition is specifically excluded from this subdivision.

RESPONSE: As noted in the use policy and the correlating annual report, the Department does not have this equipment.

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

RESPONSE: As noted in the use policy and the correlating annual report, the Department does not have this equipment.

5. Section (b) of California Government Code section 7072 requires that the SFPD hold, "at least one well-publicized and conveniently located community engagement meeting" within 30 days of releasing its annual military equipment report. When, and where does the SFPD intend to hold this meeting and how will the SFPD disseminate the meeting information to the public?

RESPONSE: The annual report is agendized for the July 17 Police Commission meeting. Commission meetings are held at 5:30pm in City Hall, Room 400.

If you have additional questions, please contact me at 415-837-7123, or email to diana.aroche@sfgov.org.

Sincerely,



DR. DIANA AROCHE

Director of Policy & Public Affairs

cc: Mayor London Breed
Cindy Elias, President, San Francisco Police Commission
Paul Henderson, Director, Department of Police Accountability