

	<b>ROSENBERG POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>	
	<b>General Order 6.02 Firearms and Qualifications</b>	
	<b>Effective Date: 07-21-2021</b>	<b>Replaces: General Order 420</b>
	<b>Approved:</b>  Chief of Police	
	<b>Reference: TBP 3.01, 3.02, 3.03, and 6.04</b>	

## I. POLICY

The department's policy is to ensure that members are properly trained not only in the use of appropriate firearms and the circumstances of their use, but also in their safety and maintenance, regarding both on and off-duty weapons. Supervisors and the department armorer shall rigorously enforce departmental firearms standards. All personnel shall qualify at least annually with his or her sidearm and those used or carried both on and off-duty.

## II. PURPOSE

To establish policy and procedures governing the care and maintenance of issued weapons and ammunition, the selection and use of holsters, off-duty weapons, firearms training, and qualification.

## III. PROCEDURES

### A. Authority

1. Sworn police officers who have the authority to make arrests and maintain the peace, are authorized to carry and use firearms as necessary in the performance of their duty, subject to the restrictions and guidelines of this order, the department's use of force policy, and state and federal law.
2. Off duty, sworn officers of this department are encouraged to carry firearms, subject to the guidelines of this order, to protect themselves or another from imminent death or serious bodily injury in the event they must intervene in an incident off-duty before the arrival of on-duty officers.

### B. On-Duty Weapons, Issuance and Use (TBP: 6.04)

1. Only weapons issued by the department or personally owned weapons approved by the Chief of Police will be carried or used while on-duty. Duty

firearms must be semiautomatic pistol that meets the following requirements:

- a. Manufactured by either Colt, Smith&Wesson, Glock, Sig Sauer, Beretta, Ruger, Heckler-Koch, Springfield Armory, Kimber, Wilson Combat, Nighthawk, or Staccato.
  - b. No less than 4-inch or longer than 6-inch barrel
  - c. 9mm, .40cal, .45cal, or .357 sig.
  - d. Inspected and approved by the range officer
  - e. Has factory type finish
2. The departmental armorer or firearms instructor shall issue any weapons to authorized personnel.
  3. Department firearms and ammunition are determined by the Chief of Police based on the needs of the agency.

#### C. Shotguns

Shotguns are assigned to individual officers as appropriate. Personally owned shotguns may also be carried on duty after inspection and approval by the departmental armorer or firearms instructor. Shotguns must be .12 gauge.

1. All shotguns shall be carried with the magazine fully loaded with approved ammunition, chamber empty, trigger released, and safety off.
2. A minimum of 5 extra rounds of approved ammunition shall be carried with each shotgun.
3. All shotguns left at the police department shall be left in an unloaded condition, with chamber open and stored in gun vault or other designated location.

#### D. Patrol Rifles

Patrol rifles (AR-15) may be issued or used by officers and supervisors who have received appropriate training and have maintained their required qualifications as approved and authorized by this policy. The following requirements apply to Patrol rifle carry:

1. Must be fully loaded, operative and safe; and must have a sling and working light attached to rifle.
2. Patrol rifle barrel lengths shall be no shorter than 14 inches and no longer than 18 inches, unless the officer can provide approved Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) tax stamp for a short-barreled rifle

(SBR). A copy of the approved SBR paperwork must be kept in the employee's PD personnel folder.

3. Officer must have met established proficiency requirements.
4. Before an Officer may carry a patrol rifle, they must first complete and pass a minimum 30 hour Patrol Rifle School approved by the department. This certification shall be included in the officer's training file.
5. The patrol rifle is authorized for deployment in the following situations:
  - a. As in accordance with Texas Penal Code, Chapter 9;
  - b. Suspects are believed to be wearing protective body armor;
  - c. Situations that an officer reasonably believes involve an active shooter;
  - d. When the unique features of the PR provide a tactical advantage; and or as approved or directed by a supervisor. The patrol rifle shall be squad ready, and secured in the cabin of the patrol unit. Squad ready shall be defined as: Bolt action forward, without a chambered round with the safety on; and One loaded magazine inserted into the magazine well

E. Off-duty or secondary weapons

1. Off-duty or secondary weapons must be consistent with the manufacturer requirements set forth in section III, B. The weapon and ammunition, are purchased at the officer's expense. The armorer shall inspect and certify the off-duty or secondary weapon before it may be carried.
  - a. Officers shall qualify with the off-duty or secondary weapon at the annual qualification.
2. Officers may carry, while off duty, either an issued weapon or one purchased at officers' expense, subject to this policy.
3. Officers should not carry weapons when socially inappropriate (e.g., at a sports event), or when consuming alcoholic beverages.
4. Off-duty weapons shall be carried safely and concealed from public view.
5. Officers shall carry the departmental badge and identification if carrying an off-duty weapon.

F. Departmental Ammunition (TBP: 6.04)

1. Only factory manufactured ammunition manufactured by Winchester, Federal, Speer, or Hornady will be used for on-duty or off-duty firearms. No reloaded ammunition will be used except for practice. Officers are responsible for the purchase of their ammunition.
2. Only Winchester Federal factory 00 Buck and slug rounds will be used in departmental shotguns.
3. Only Remington, Hornady, Federal, Winchester, Black Hills, or Barnes .223/5.56mm, 55 grain soft point ammunition will be used in departmental patrol rifles unless otherwise authorized by the Chief of Police.

G. Security of weapons

1. Officers are responsible for the care, cleaning, and security of departmental weapons issued to them, whether on or off duty. Officers shall report any weapon malfunction to the Chief of Police via the armorer.
2. Officers are responsible for the safe and secure storage of issued weapons when off-duty in a manner that prevents theft or unauthorized access or use.

H. Department Firearms Coordinator and Armorer

The Chief of Police shall appoint at least one sworn member of the department to be the departmental Firearms Proficiency Coordinator and Armorer.

1. The duties are as follows:
  - a. Schedule, supervise and maintain records on all firearms qualifications required by the department.
  - b. Maintain non-issued departmental weapons and associated equipment.
  - c. Inspect all weapons being returned to the armory to ensure they are clean and serviceable.
  - d. Repair or submit to a qualified gunsmith for repair all departmentally owned malfunctioning weapons.
  - e. Maintain records of issuance, care, and maintenance of departmental and personally owned weapons and associated items used on-duty.
  - f. Issue departmental ammunition.
  - g. Annually inspect and certify as serviceable both departmental and personally-owned firearms that are authorized for on and off-duty use.
  - h. Inspect and authorize the use of holsters for off-duty use and for on-duty use if the officer prefers to use a holster other than one issued by the department.

2. The armorer shall maintain a record of all firearms which have been certified as safe and with which officers have qualified. This record shall include the following:
  - a. Officer's name and identification number.
  - b. Make and model of weapon.
  - c. Serial number of weapon.
3. The armorer shall be a firearms instructor certified by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

#### I. Modification of weapons

1. Departmental weapons shall not be modified or altered without written approval of the Chief of Police or designee, except as outlined.
2. Substitution of grips
  - a. Grips shall be of high quality wood, rubber, or polyurethane.
  - b. Grips shall be the color of the natural wood, or plain black or brown.
  - c. Target-style grips, or any grips which interfere with the operation of the weapon are not authorized.
3. Modification of privately-owned weapons designated by officers as duty weapons.
  - a. Substitution of grips as outlined in 2.b above is authorized.
  - b. Trigger shoes are prohibited.

#### J. Optics

1. Reflex or "red dot" sights may be mounted to firearms carried on duty, however they must be mounted in a way that allows the operator to co-witness with the weapon mounted sights or be viewable in the lower third of the optic.
2. Reflex sights may be coupled with a magnification device no greater than 3 power (3x).
3. Weapons mounted with a magnification device greater than 3 power (3x) will be considered precision weapons and may only be carried with the approval of the Chief of Police.

#### K. Firearms inspections

1. Annually, either the firearms instructor or the armorer shall thoroughly inspect each weapon during qualification on the range. Documentation of this inspection will be maintained by the department firearms instructor. (TBP: 3.03)
2. Supervisors shall also inspect subordinate officers' firearms randomly to ensure that they are maintained in a clean and serviceable condition.

- a. Firearms inspections shall include side arms, shotguns, authorized rifles, ammunition pouches, and holsters.
- b. Ammunition shall be inspected to ensure that it is departmental approved, of correct quantity, and in serviceable condition.

**IV. PROCEDURES - QUALIFICATION**

A. Qualification rules

- 1. Officers must qualify with any weapon they carry or use on-duty at least annually or when they change weapons. TCOLE standards indicate a qualification has occurred annually as long as the operator has qualified within the calendar year, not from the date of the previous qualification (TBP: 3.01)
- 2. The firearms instructor or armorer shall be in charge at all times when officers are on the firing range for qualification.
- 3. Only weapons and ammunition issued by the department shall be used during qualifications, except for officers who use their own weapons while on duty or if qualifying with off-duty weapons.
- 4. All departmental qualification courses of fire shall conform to TCOLE approved standards.
- 5. All officers shall fire the approved course of fire related to the firearm they are qualifying with, i.e. duty weapon, off-duty weapon, patrol rifle or shotgun.
- 6. Approved qualification courses of fire:

**Primary Handgun Qualification: 50 Rounds (Officer must maintain a loaded weapon during this course). A timed reload will take place during the 1 or 3 yardage exercise.**

Distance Line	Round Count	Time Limit Per String of Fire (in seconds)	Starting Position	Exercise
1 Yard	10	4	Holster	2 Double Tap / 2 Triple Tap
3 Yard	10	3	Low Ready	2 Double Strong / 3 Double Weak
7 Yard	10	5	Holster	2 Strings of 5 Rounds
10 Yard	10	40	Holster	Run From 50 Yard Line, 10 Rounds
15 Yard	5	N/A	Holster	Self-Paced 5 Rounds
25 Yard	5	N/A	Holster	Self-Paced 5 Rounds

**Secondary Handgun Qualification: 50 Rounds (Officer must maintain a loaded weapon during this course). A timed reload will take place during the 1 or 3 yardage exercise.**

Distance Line	Round Count	Time Limit Per String of Fire (in seconds)	Starting Position	Exercise
1 Yard	12	3	Low Ready	4 Triple Tap
3 Yard	12	3	Low Ready	4 Triple Tap
7 Yard	20	40	Holstered	(2) 10 Round Strings of Fire
15 Yard	6	N/A	Holstered	6 Rounds Self-Paced

**Shotgun Qualification: 10 Rounds**

Distance Line	Round Count	Time Limit Per String of Fire (in seconds)	Exercise
7	5	6	4 Rounds + 1 Combat Load
15	5	15	5 Rounds

**Patrol Rifle Qualification: 50 Rounds** (Officer must maintain a loaded weapon during this course). During this drill use two magazines loaded at 25 rounds each. \*Armor Drill consists of two center mass shots, followed by two pelvic region shots, followed by two cranial cavity shots. Magazine Swap creates a timed reload during the Armor Drill Exercise.

Distance Line	Round Count	Time Limit Per String of Fire (in seconds)	Position	Exercise
100	5	30	Prone	5 Rounds
75	5	30	Sitting	5 Rounds
50	5	30	Kneeling	5 Rounds
-	-	-	-	Swap Magazine
35	5	20	Kneeling	5 Rounds
25	5	20	Standing	5 Rounds
15	5	20	Standing	5 Rounds
7	12	8	Standing	(2) 6 Round Armor Drills
3	8	3	Standing	(2) 4 Round Strings of Fire

7. Each course of fire will be graded either passing or failing. Minimum passing scores are as follows:
  - a. Duty Pistol (80%)
  - b. Off-Duty pistol (80%)
  - c. Shotgun (80%)
  - d. Patrol Rifle (90%)
  
8. Officers who fail to qualify on their first attempt shall immediately attempt qualification a second time. Officers who fail to qualify on the second attempt shall be placed in remedial training as soon as practicable and shall be removed from patrol or investigative duties until the standards expressed herein are met, upon the approval of the Chief of Police. Officers who cannot

qualify within fifteen days of the original qualification shall be subject to termination. (TBP: 3.01)

9. The armorer will maintain records of each officer's firearms qualifications including:
  - a. The officer's name and Identification Number
  - b. The date of qualification
  - c. The weapons(s) used during qualification
  - d. A description of the course of fire and score.
10. The armorer or firearms instructor shall inspect all weapons before firing to (1) ascertain that weapons are safe and (2) to ensure that weapons are properly maintained.
11. Applicants seeking employment with the department must show firearms proficiency by passing the Primary Handgun Qualification prior to receiving offer of employment.

#### B. Firearms and Use of Force Instruction

1. All department personnel shall be familiar with all functions related to the proper use, malfunction clearing, and cleaning needs of their firearms before range qualification.
2. At least annually, personnel shall, if duties require carrying of a firearm, receive training in the mechanics of the weapon (stripping, lubricating, nomenclature, troubleshooting, and misfires), sound safety practices, and departmental use of force policy. (TBP: 3.01)
3. Use of force and use of deadly force training will be conducted at least annually in conjunction with firearms use and firearms qualification. (TBP: 3.02)