

TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Title: AB 481 Military Equipment Use Policy.

Meeting Date: July 17, 2024

Prepared by: Daniel Casabian, Chief of Police / Andrew Morris, Town Attorney

RECOMMENDATION:

The Mammoth Lakes Police Department seeks Town Council’s continued approval for the possession or use of military equipment through the Town Council’s action to waive the reading and introduce by title only the Ordinance renewing the Town’s Military Equipment Use Policy pursuant to Government Code Section 7071 (AB 481).

BACKGROUND:

On September 30, 2021, the Governor of the State of California approved Assembly Bill 481 requiring law enforcement agencies to obtain approval from the applicable governing body (Town Council) to use any equipment defined as military equipment by AB 481 by adopting a military equipment use policy. AB 481 declares the public has a right to know about any funding, acquisition, or use of military equipment as well as a right to participate in the decision to fund, acquire, or use such equipment. The Mammoth Lakes Police Department is committed to adopting internal processes related to the funding, acquisition, and use of defined military equipment as codified by Government Code sections § 7070, § 7071, and § 7072, which can be found here:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&division=7.&title=1.&part=&chapter=12.8.&article=

AB 481 outlines fifteen categories of equipment that is defined as “military equipment,” ranging from remote piloted drone or robotic equipment to simunition firearms used only for training purposes. Of these fifteen categories or equipment, the Mammoth Lakes Police Department acquires and has available for use three of the fifteen categories of equipment – two of the three categories of equipment are primarily or solely used for wildlife diversion (Pepperball Launcher and Munitions, Bean-Bag Shotguns and Rounds, Rubber Slugs). The third category of equipment the Mammoth Lakes Police Department has is an unarmed drone.

ATTACHMENTS:

Military Equipment Ordinance 2024

Annual Report of Military Equipment Use 2024

MLPD Military Equipment Policy 706