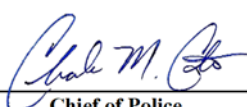
	<b>MESQUITE POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>
	<b>403.00 FIREARMS EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING</b>
	<b>Effective Date: February, 2020</b>
	<b>Approved:</b> _____  <b>Chief of Police</b>

I. Policy Statement

The Mesquite Police Department requires officers to maintain the highest standards of firearms maintenance and training. Firearms safety is paramount on any firing range or field deployment and each officer should consider it their personal responsibility to keep those around them safe while training or deploying their weapons.

II. Definitions

- A. **Firearm-** Any device designed, made or adapted to expel a projectile through a barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance.
- B. **Primary Range Master-** That range master assigned to the Mesquite Police Firearms range on a full-time basis.
- C. **Assistant Range Master-** Includes all persons currently designated by the Chief of Police to operate the Mesquite Police Department firing range.
- D. **On-duty firearm-** A firearm designed and intended for primary or secondary carry by an officer while on duty. It includes any firearm carried while on-duty in plain clothes.
- E. **Off-duty firearm-** A firearm carried while off-duty for the purpose of defense of self or another person. Off-duty firearms include all firearms carried by the off-duty officer for the purpose of defense of self or others.
- F. **Primary firearm-** A firearm carried while on duty which is intended to be the first firearm utilized in a use of force situation.
- G. **Secondary firearm-** A firearm carried while on duty which is intended to be the second or backup firearm utilized in a use of force situation.

III. Firearms Safety

- A. Officers are responsible for the operation, safe handling, safe carrying and proper maintenance of all firearms in their control at all times.
- B. The firearm may be readied for use in situations where it is anticipated a firearm may be required with the officers trigger finger alongside the frame of the firearm and at no time should the officer's finger touch the trigger until the officer makes the conscious decision to fire.
- C. Loaded firearms, other than an officer's handgun(s) carried in a holster or secured in another manner, such as a briefcase or backpack, shall not be carried into any police facility.
- D. Shotguns and rifles will be loaded and unloaded outside of buildings and vehicles except in exigent circumstances. While on duty, shotguns will be secured inside the police vehicle in the trunk or locking shotgun rack in car-carry condition with the magazine tube loaded on an empty chamber, with the action unlocked and the firearm on safe.
- E. Safety rules will be posted at the Firearms Range: Unsafe acts, practices, or conditions are prohibited. The Range Master or Assistant Range Master, shall report any unsafe acts, practices, or conditions occurring at the firearms range through the Staff Support chain of command.
- F. When conducting any firearms training at the Firearms Range, the only place to load or unload is the designated clearing barrels or on the firing line, when instructed to do so by the Range Master.
- G. The firearms range is available for use by commissioned Mesquite Police Department personnel at times other than scheduled training sessions; however, a Range Master must

- be on-site. The officer is responsible for safety, damage occurring during the use of the range, and cleanliness of the range. Personnel wishing to utilize the range at times other than scheduled training sessions may contact the Range Master to schedule a time.
- H. Use of the Firearms Range by persons other than officers of the Mesquite Police Department is authorized only by permission of the Chief of Police or his designee.
  - I. While off duty, firearms shall be secured in the trunk or removed from the police vehicle. Vehicles that contain firearms must be locked.
- IV. Firearms Proficiency and Maintenance
- A. Handguns, rifles, shotguns and special firearms will be inspected a minimum of two (2) times per calendar year by the Range Master or designated armorer for mechanical functioning and cleanliness.
  - B. Officers must demonstrate proficiency with all firearms intended to be carried for the purpose of being utilized in a use of force situation.
  - C. Proficiency demonstrations must include the ability to clear malfunctions during firing and the ability to field-strip and reassemble all firearms used.
  - D. Each officer shall ensure that their on and off-duty firearms are clean and functional at all times while being carried.
  - E. It is the responsibility of the officer to ensure that their ammunition is fresh and effective. Officers shall exchange their duty ammunition once every (6) six months to ensure it is fresh and working properly.
  - F. Officers carrying personal firearms shall replace the on-duty ammunition every (6) six months. Documentation of purchase shall be produced upon request.
  - G. Damaged city issued ammunition will be replaced by the Range Master as needed.
  - H. If the Primary Range Master determines that a make or model of firearm is inherently unsafe, he will deny in writing, an officer's authorization to carry the firearm. The Primary Range Master's decision is subject to review through the chain of command; however, his decision shall stand until overruled by a higher authority.
  - I. The Primary Range Master will maintain a current list of the make, model, caliber and serial number of every firearm, whether city-issued or personally owned, carried in an on or off-duty capacity by all officers of the department. Each officer is responsible for ensuring that complete information regarding his personally owned duty handgun is supplied to the Primary Range Master.
- V. Handgun Standards
- A. The department issued handgun for on-duty use is a Glock semi-automatic pistol.
  - B. Officers may be authorized by the Chief of Police to carry personally owned handguns on duty, provided:
    - 1. The handgun is of recognized quality, as approved by the Chief of Police or his designee.
    - 2. Any pistol designated as a primary firearm will fire, as a minimum, a 9mm parabellum (9X19) in the semi-automatic pistol and a .38 special in a revolver. Officers working undercover or other assignments may be authorized by the Chief of Police to carry another type or caliber of firearm.
- VI. Rifle Standards
- A. The department issued rifle for on-duty use is a Colt AR-15.
  - B. Officers may carry other rifles on duty which has been approved by the Chief of Police. The following criteria must be met:
    - 1. The rifle is of recognized quality. It will be a semi-automatic rifle with a barrel no longer than (22) twenty-two inches. Telescopic sights or optics are allowed if the mounting system allows immediate access to the fixed iron sights.
    - 2. The officer successfully completes the department's basic rifle training course.
    - 3. The rifle must meet the current rifle ammunition standard approved by the Chief of Police and maintained by the department's Primary Range Master.

- C. A decision of the Primary Range Master regarding authorization to carry a personally owned rifle is subject to review through the chain of command; however, his decision shall stand until overruled by higher authority.
  - D. While on duty, officers who have a locking rifle rack installed in their vehicle may carry a rifle inside the passenger compartment, locked in the carrier unless exigent circumstances require the rifle to be carried in a more accessible location; otherwise the rifle will be carried in the trunk. While on-duty, rifles shall be stored in car-carry condition with a loaded magazine, on an empty chamber, with the firearm on safe.
  - E. Fully automatic firearms, other than departmentally owned firearms utilized by the tactical team, are prohibited.
  - F. Rifles shall not be used as primary firearms on routine patrol responses such as traffic stops, alarm calls, building searches, etc.
  - G. Officers are required to exchange their rifle ammunition and have their rifles inspected twice a year.
- VII. Training Standards
- A. Each officer shall qualify at least (2) two times per calendar year with their primary handgun. Each qualification shall take place in a separate calendar quarter. At least (1) one qualification shall take place at nighttime. The minimum for qualification will be 70 percent.
  - B. Each officer shall take a minimum of (1) one (8) eight-hour firearms training class per calendar year. Active shooter and Reality Based training will count as a firearms training class. Active Shooter training is mandatory once every two calendar years.
  - C. Each officer shall qualify at least (1) one time per calendar year with the shotgun.
  - D. Officers shall qualify twice per year with the rifle, once in each six-month period. The minimum for qualification will be 90 percent.
  - E. An officer who chooses to carry a secondary firearm will qualify with that firearm at least once a year.
  - F. Each officer shall qualify at least (1) one time per calendar year with any weapon that is provided to the officer by the Mesquite Police Department.
  - G. The Primary Range Master or Assistant Range Master will be responsible for firearms qualification, scheduling, proficiency and marksmanship grading.
  - H. Documentation will be completed by the Range Master on all qualifications.
  - I. In the event an officer does not meet minimum qualification, a memorandum will be sent to the Chief of Police by the Range Master, advising the need for additional training.
- VIII. Firearm Accessories
- A. Prior to the attachment of any non-issued equipment on a firearm that is carried on-duty the officer must first seek approval of the Primary Range Master.
  - B. Primary Range Master will maintain a list of approved supplemental attachments for firearms carried on-duty.
    - 1. Sights must be of good construction and not hinder drawing the firearm from the holster.
    - 2. Firearms equipped with laser aiming devices will not be approved.
    - 3. Firearm mounted lights must be of strong construction, must attach directly to the rails of the firearm and function without placing the operators hand in front of the muzzle.
      - a) Firearm light operating switches must not require the use of the primary shooting hand to operate.
      - b) On handguns, the switch to operate the light must rotate on an axis and may not be a push button type.
      - c) Grip mounted firearm light switches are prohibited on all firearms.
  - C. Holsters must be of good construction and must be approved by the Primary Range Master.

1. Friction only holsters are not allowed for patrol use. Friction holsters are allowed for plain clothes.
- D. Red dot optics are allowed for handguns if the mounting system allows immediate access to the fixed iron sights.
  1. Officers may be authorized by the Chief of Police or his designee to carry personally owned handguns that are factory optic ready or that have been specifically milled to accept a red dot optic, provided:
    - a) The handgun is modified by an approved gunsmith for a specific optic as approved by the Range Master. The Range Master will maintain a list of approved gunsmiths.
    - b) Only approved optics may be used for duty use. The Range Master will maintain a list of approved optics.
    - c) The iron sights must be accessible and must co-witness with the red dot optic.
  2. The officer must successfully complete the department's red dot handgun training course before the officer is allowed to carry the handgun for duty use.
- E. Firearms coatings such as cerakote, nitride, etc. are approved for personal owned weapons.
  1. Firearms coatings and colors must be approved by the Range Master. The colors allowed must resemble factory coatings. The Range Master will maintain a list of approved manufactures and colors that will be allowed for duty use.
- IX. Ammunition
  - A. The Primary Range Master will maintain an approved list of ammunition for all on-duty use. Hand loaded, reloaded or ball ammunition will not be approved. Use of ammunition which is not on the current approved list, other than for training purposes is prohibited.
  - B. Officers will be responsible for supplying the ammunition for the qualification of off-duty weapons.
  - C. Officers who carry firearms of a caliber other than that of departmental issue may be required to provide their own ammunition for qualification and duty use. Such ammunition shall meet minimum standards prescribed by the Chief of Police.
- X. Compensation:
  - A. The firearms qualification schedule will be designed to allow officers to qualify while on-duty to the maximum extent possible. At times when an officer cannot qualify while on-duty, they will be eligible for overtime pay or compensatory time for up to three required handgun qualifications, two required rifle qualifications and one required shotgun qualification per year. Compensation will not be granted for optional firearms qualifications.
  - B. Officers are not required to carry secondary or off-duty firearms. Compensation for training and qualification with those firearms will not be granted.

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