

Cobb County Police Department

Policy 3.05

SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES

Effective Date: October 1, 2019	Issued By: Chief C.T. Cox
Rescinds: Policy 3.05 (November 1, 2017)	Page 1 of 9
The words "he, his, him," which may appear in this policy, are used generically for clarity and ease of reading. These terms are not meant to imply gender and relate to all employees of the Department.	

The Cobb County Police Department performs many special functions that often require officer transportation needs that go beyond the traditional patrol car. The purpose of this policy is to outline the special requirements and procedures used in operating special purpose vehicles.

I. DEFINITION

Special Purpose Vehicle: A vehicle that requires special training or authorization for deployment. This includes, but is not limited to: SWAT trucks, bomb disposal vehicles, mobile command posts, aircraft, watercraft, and motorcycles. Bicycles, all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, and Segways may fall under the definition of a special purpose vehicle, if the agency or law requires special licensing or training prior to their use.

II. SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES

A. Motorcycles

1. Conditions and Limitations of Use

Officers authorized to operate motorcycles will do so within the scope of their employment and strictly per their assigned duties. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- a. To provide for a means of maneuvering through heavy traffic in emergency situations
- b. To provide for vehicles that have been proven statistically to be the highest profile law enforcement vehicle, resulting in the most voluntary compliance of traffic laws when it is present
- c. To provide for a more professional public image during special events, such as funerals, parades, and VIP escorts
- d. To provide for the most efficient means of traffic enforcement; getting into and out of traffic most expediently

- e. To provide a means of maneuvering through Cobb County parks and trails more efficiently
- f. To access areas where terrain is difficult to negotiate with a patrol car

2. Authorization

Motorcycles will be authorized for use in the performance of duties of Motor Unit and Ranger Unit officers, or by direction of the Deputy Chief of Support Operations. Ranger Unit motorcycles will only become involved in traffic enforcement or become involved in a vehicle pursuit under the most extreme circumstances.

3. Qualifications and Training

All officers authorized to operate a Motor Unit motorcycle will be required to possess a valid state of Georgia motorcycle operator's license, and must have completed a motorcycle operations course approved by the Georgia P.O.S.T.

All officers authorized to operate a Ranger Unit motorcycle will be required to possess a valid state of Georgia motorcycle operator's license and must have received on the job training from current Ranger unit personnel.

4. Maintenance Responsibility

The officer to whom the motorcycle is assigned to will be responsible at all times for the condition and maintenance of the motorcycle. Maintenance/repairs will be performed only by persons authorized by Fleet Maintenance or as otherwise directed by the Support Operations Deputy Chief.

5. Equipment

Each motorcycle will be equipped with police markings, emergency lights, and a siren. Additionally, Motor Unit motorcycles will be equipped a mobile radio.

B. SWAT Equipment Vehicles

1. Conditions and Limitations of Use

The Cobb County Police Department SWAT Team is issued vehicles that have been adapted for use to transport equipment and personnel when responding to various tactical or unusual occurrence incidents.

2. Authorization

The operation of SWAT Equipment Vehicles shall be limited to SWAT personnel. Authorization for use shall be approved by the SWAT Commander or the Deputy Chief of Support Operations.

3. Qualifications and Training

SWAT Equipment Vehicles require possession of a valid state of Georgia class "C" operator's license.

4. Maintenance Responsibility and Equipment

It shall be the responsibility of the SWAT Commander to ensure the vehicles are maintained in a state of readiness.

5. Equipment

The SWAT Commander will maintain a list of items that are to be pre-loaded on the SWAT Equipment Vehicles. Any necessary equipment not on the SWAT Equipment Vehicles will be loaded vehicle according to the needs of the incident. Regular equipment includes:

- 800 MHz radio
- Public address system
- Emergency signaling devices
- Battery cut-off switch
- Locking doors

C. SWAT Armored Vehicles (APC/LAV/Bearcat)

1. Conditions and Limitations of Use

The SWAT Team is assigned armored vehicles for use in various incidents and tactical situations. Use of these vehicles allows for officer protection at incidents, downed officer retrieval, breaching capabilities, or other situations as directed by the SWAT Commander.

2. Authorization

The operation of the SWAT Armored Vehicles shall be limited to SWAT personnel. Authorization for use shall be approved by the SWAT Commander or the Deputy Chief of Support Operations.

3. Qualifications and Training

The SWAT Armored Vehicles require possession of a valid state of Georgia

class “C” operator’s license.

4. Maintenance Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of the SWAT Commander to ensure the vehicles are maintained in a state of operational readiness.

5. Equipment

Due to the various functions of the vehicles, equipment will be loaded into the vehicles according to the needs of the incident. Generally, the vehicles are equipped with:

- Four-wheel Drive (APC/Bearcat) / Six-wheel Drive (LAV)
- Turret
- Winch (APC/Bearcat)
- Ram/breach assembly
- Emergency signaling devices
- Rear camera
- Battery cut-off (APC only)

D. Command/Crisis Negotiation Vehicle (Homeland Security)

1. Conditions and Limitations of Use

The Command Crisis Negotiation Vehicle is a multi purpose vehicle designed to support a variety of police and critical incident operations. The primary purpose of the vehicle is to serve as a police command post during a critical incident. If the critical incident involves crisis negotiation, the vehicle will be utilized by the Crisis Negotiation Team for that purpose, and not as the police incident command post.

- a. The vehicle may also be utilized on major or large crime scenes in support of the crime technician, detectives or officers involved in the processing of the crime scene.
- b. The vehicle may be utilized for public relations or training functions as requested.
- c. Additionally, the vehicle is available to other agencies as requested in support of Mutual Aid and Homeland Security commitments.

2. Authorization

The operation of the Command Vehicle shall be limited to selected personnel assigned to the Crimes Against Persons Unit or the Crisis Negotiation Team. Authorization for other uses shall be approved by

Crimes Against Persons Unit Commander, Deputy Chief, or Chief of Police.

3. Qualifications and Training

The Command Vehicle requires possession of a valid state of Georgia class “C” operator’s license.

4. Maintenance Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of the Crimes Against Persons Unit Commander to ensure that the vehicle is maintained in a state of readiness.

5. Equipment

Due to the various functions of the vehicle, equipment will be loaded into the vehicle according to the needs of the incident. Generally, the vehicle is equipped with:

- Perimeter cameras
- Covert surveillance equipment
- Tactical robots
- Computer/computer data link
- Hostage/barricaded subject telephone
- Exterior wash station
- Hydraulic stabilizing jack
- 800 MHz radios
- Emergency lights

E. Golf Cart, UTV, and ATV

1. Conditions and Limitations of Use

The Golf Cart, UTV, and ATV are utilized in park facilities where close citizen contact is desired.

2. Authorization

Golf Cart, UTV, and ATV deployment may be accomplished by obtaining the authorization from a Ranger Unit supervisor.

3. Qualifications and Training

Personnel who operate the vehicles shall receive on the job training in Golf Cart, UTV, and ATV operations.

4. Maintenance Responsibility

Personnel who utilize the Golf Cart, UTV, and ATV shall be responsible for the condition and maintenance of the Golf Cart, UTV, and ATV. Periodic maintenance will be performed by or as directed by Fleet Maintenance.

5. Equipment

The UTV is equipped with a blue light and other equipment necessary to carry out the function.

F. USRT Watercraft

1. Conditions and Limitations of Use

The agency uses watercraft for occurrences that exceed the limitations normally imposed on field units and for specialized functions such as search and recovery missions.

2. Authorization

Requests for vessel support shall be directed to the USRT Commander. Agency vessels shall be staffed by and operated as authorized by the USRT Commander, Deputy Chief, or Chief of Police.

3. Qualifications and Training

Assigned personnel shall be familiar with the specialized operating characteristics of the vessels used and shall be familiar with all boating laws and regulations.

4. Maintenance Responsibility

The USRT Commander shall be responsible for the periodic and scheduled maintenance of agency vessels as performed by or coordinated with Fleet Maintenance.

5. Equipment

Each vessel will be equipped in accordance with United States Coast Guard regulations pertaining to vessel class. Should the need arise for the use of a vessel to patrol waterways; it will be equipped with appropriate Department markings, lights, siren and 800 MHz radio.

G. USRT Van

1. Conditions and Limitations of Use

The USRT van is authorized for use by USRT for deployments and support

operations, training, public display or other agency functions authorized by the USRT Commander, Deputy Chief or Chief of Police.

2. Authorization

The USRT van may only be operated by personnel assigned to the USRT, or as directed by the USRT Commander, Deputy Chief or Chief of Police.

3. Training and Qualifications

The operation of the USRT Van requires possession of a valid state of Georgia class “C” operator’s license.

4. Maintenance Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of the USRT Commander to ensure the vehicle is maintained in a state of readiness.

5. Equipment

Due to the various functions of the vehicle, equipment will be loaded into the vehicle according to the needs of the incident. Generally, the vehicle is equipped with:

- Team member dive bag
- Regulators
- Kirby Morgan Mark 37 Dive Helmet
- Weights
- Additional air tanks
- First aid kit (to include oxygen)
- Equipment repair maintenance box
- Portable generator
- Awning
- Wet suits (9)
- Dry suits (9)
- Hard line communication system
- Police radio
- Emergency lights and siren

H. Bomb Squad Vehicles

1. Conditions and Limitations of Use

Bomb Squad trucks/trailers are to be utilized in conjunction with Bomb Squad responses to incidents where hazardous devices may be located. Trucks/trailers may also be deployed by members of the Bomb Squad for training purposes, public relation events, or in response to mutual aid requests or Homeland Security objectives. Additionally, the Bomb Squad

vehicles and robots may be deployed to other critical incidents where their use would be beneficial.

2. Authorization

The vehicles may only be operated by members of the Bomb Squad, or as authorized by the Chief of Police or his designee.

3. Training and Qualifications

The operation of the bomb truck and bomb trailer requires the possession of a state of Georgia class “B” operator’s license.

4. Maintenance Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of the Bomb Squad Commander to ensure that the vehicles are maintained in a state of readiness.

5. Equipment

Due to the various functions of the vehicles, equipment for response to the various situations will be maintained in a secure area of the Bomb Squad truck(s). The robots will normally be stored on a truck. The vehicles will be pre-loaded with equipment needed for routine deployments, as directed by the Bomb Squad Commander. Additional equipment will be loaded into the vehicles as necessary according to the needs of a particular incident.

I. Canine Team Vehicle

1. Conditions and Limitations of Use

The Canine Team vehicle is to be used to transport the Canine Team during patrol and to call-outs. The vehicle may also be used to transport the canine for administrative duties such as training activities, community relations activities, and veterinarian appointments.

2. Authorization

Canine Team vehicles will normally only be operated by a member of the Canine Unit. The Special Operations Commander or the Deputy Chief of Support Operations may authorize the use of the vehicle by other employees of the Department. Department canines should be under the control of the canine’s handler or a certified Canine Team member while in a duty status.

3. Training and Qualifications

The operation of the canine vehicle requires the possession of a state of Georgia class “C” operator’s license.

4. Maintenance Responsibility

The maintenance of the canine vehicle, and the responsibility to ensure that the Canine Team is ready to perform duty requirements is the responsibility of the Canine Handler assigned to the vehicle and the canine.

5. Equipment

The vehicle is equipped with:

- Muzzle
- Dog leashes
- Bite sleeve
- Tracking harness
- Peroxide and syrup of ipecac
- Water
- Rear seat kennel
- Bullet resistant vest for the canine
- Items required by policy for patrol duty