





## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL**

	<b>SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES</b>	
	<b>POLICY NUMBER: 41-2</b>	ISSUING AUTHORITY 
	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2025</b>	Christine A. Elow Police Commissioner

### **I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND GUIDELINES**

A special purpose vehicle is one that requires specific training or authorization for deployment. This includes but is not limited to SRT vehicles, bomb disposal vehicles, mobile command posts, motorcycles, bicycles, all terrain-vehicles, and any other vehicle the Police Commissioner determines to fall under this category. Such vehicles may require special licensing and or training by law.

### **II. POLICY**

It is the policy of the Cambridge Police Department to provide for:

- A. the safe and effective operation of special purpose vehicles only by members of the department who are trained, licensed when required, and authorized to operate them;
- B. the operational readiness of special purpose vehicles through a regimen of regular inspections and maintenance; and
- C. the supervision and command-level oversight of these vehicles.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. *Multi-Purpose Emergency Response Vehicle (Bearcat)*: An armored tactical vehicle that may be deployed in SRT operations.
- B. *EOD*: Explosive ordinance disposal.

### **IV. PROCEDURES**

- A. 41.1.3 (M) Special-Purpose Vehicles
  1. Multi-Purpose Emergency Response Vehicle (Bearcat)

- a. The Multi-Purpose Emergency Response Vehicle (MPERV) is stored in the maintenance facility and may only be deployed in critical situations with the explicit authorization from the Police Commissioner. Only SRT members may operate the MPERV.
  - b. There is no special training or license required to operate the MPERV. However, the only officers authorized to drive it are members of the SRT who are designated to do so by the SRT Commander.
  - c. Sole responsibility for the safe operating condition, maintenance, and operational readiness of the MPERV falls under the authority of Fleet Maintenance.
  - d. Due to the limited space in the MPERV, the only equipment that is maintained in the vehicle includes a ballistic shield, a set of breaching tools, flash-bangs, and a bag of less lethal options including a 40mm launcher and chemical irritants in compliance with federal, state, and local law.
2. Mobile Command Post
    - a. The Mobile Command Post comes under the authority of the Command Staff depending on each deployment function. It is used primarily for community events of some duration.
    - b. Any sworn officer with a Massachusetts Class D Driver License may operate the vehicle.
    - c. The vehicle is housed in the Fleet Maintenance building. Fleet Maintenance is responsible for its operational readiness.
    - d. The Mobile Command Post is equipped with tables and chairs, first aid equipment, radios and batteries, and a generator.
3. Special Response Team Vehicle
    - a. The Special Response Team maintains one F-350 truck for the exclusive use of team members under authorization of the Police Commissioner. The vehicle is used for callouts related to critical incidents. It is also used for transporting equipment for training.
    - b. Any officer with a Massachusetts Class D Driver License may operate the vehicle with permission of the SRT Commander.
    - c. Any member of the SRT, any firearms instructors, and armorers who operate the vehicle are responsible for its day-to-day general upkeep and safe operating condition. Repairs and regular maintenance are the responsibility of Fleet Maintenance.
    - d. The vehicle is equipped with breaching tools, ammunition, shields, ramming tools, and other SRT and training equipment and accessories.
4. Explosive Device Vehicle
    - a. The EOD Team has six F-250 pick-up trucks specifically designated for this purpose under authorization of the Commissioner and supervised by the Bomb Squad Commander. These trucks are assigned to individual officers and may only be used for official

department purposes including operations of the team, transportation of the K-9, and training.

- (1) An additional truck assigned to the EOD Team is an E-450 box truck used as a command post for special and large-scale events and contains explosive mitigation equipment.
- (2) The team also has a Total Containment Vessel (TCV) on a trailer used to transport explosives from one location to another for disposal.

- b. To be a member of the team and operate these vehicles, officers must be a certified bomb technician or a K-9 handler, or bomb technician or K-9 handler in training.
- c. Each vehicle is assigned to a team member who is responsible for the day-to-day cleanliness, general upkeep, and safe operational conditions. Fleet Maintenance is responsible for the repair and maintenance of all EOD vehicles.
- d. Each vehicle contains a K-9 kennel and explosive mitigation equipment.

#### 5. Motorcycles

- a. The use of all special purpose vehicles, including motorcycles, is authorized by the Police Commissioner. Motorcycles are the primary vehicle assigned to motor officers who work in the Selective Enforcement Unit (Traffic). Other than regular daily activities, motorcycles may be used during special events, such as parades, dignitary protection, or special assignments.
- b. To qualify for a motorcycle position, motor officers will be selected by an interview committee and then pass a state-certified training course.
- c. The officer assigned to each motorcycle is responsible for the condition and maintenance of the vehicle. Motor officers are responsible for the general upkeep and condition of the motorcycle, including cleaning, checking the fluids, and for the day-to-day operational condition. Servicing and repairs are tracked and performed by Fleet Maintenance.
- d. There is no required equipment kept on motorcycles. Motor officers may keep general equipment on their motorcycles including flashlights, ticket books, and briefcases. LIDAR units are assigned to the operators and kept in their personal lockers.

#### 6. Bicycles

- a. Authorization for use of patrol bicycles is delegated to the Lieutenants of Patrol by the Command Staff. Bicycles may be used for special assignments based on circumstances including scheduled events, unscheduled events such as a protest, and to maintain a police presence in certain neighborhoods after an incident. Members of the Family and Social Justice Unit have bicycles assigned to them for use related to their specific duties.
- b. All officers who ride bicycles shall complete a police mountain bike certification course.

- c. Officers who are authorized to ride or who are assigned a bicycle shall be responsible for daily inspections and cleanliness; maintenance and repairs will be performed by officers who are certified bicycle mechanics.
  - d. Equipment maintained on bicycles includes a front-facing white headlight, rear-facing red reflection light/reflector, siren, rack and bag, and a rear-mounted kickstand.
7. All-Terrain Vehicles
- a. The department owns three all-terrain vehicles, two Polaris and one Gator, which are used in special events and authorized by the Police Commissioner.
  - b. There are no qualifications or training required to operate an all-terrain vehicle other than a Massachusetts Driver License.
  - c. The Commander of the EOD is responsible for deploying the Gator; the Polaris all-terrain vehicles come under the direction of the Deputy Superintendent of Tactical Operations.
  - d. These vehicles have no equipment kept on them on a regular basis.