



MIDDLETON POLICE DEPARTMENT

DATE
February 5, 2013

POLICY
6.1.02

SUBJECT: **Special Purpose Vehicles and Animals**

REVIEWED
February 5, 2013

History: 3/2009, Updated: 02/2013

[WILEAG \(4th Ed.\) Standards: 6.1.2](#) (6.1.2.1, 6.1.2.2, 6.1.2.3, 6.1.2.4)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of special purpose vehicles and animals.

POLICY

It is the policy of the Middleton Police Department that departmental “Special Purpose Vehicles” and Animals be properly maintained and utilized only when authorized. Special Purpose Vehicles include: Police Bicycles, Covert Vehicles, ATV’s, Rental/Lease Vehicles, and Police Motorcycles.

Police Horses and K-9 Units

The department does not maintain Mounted or K-9 Units. The Shift Commander or Investigative Services Commander may authorize the operational use of a K-9 Unit from another law enforcement agency on a mutual aid basis, or for training, demonstration, or public relations purposes. The Chief or a Captain may authorize the use of another law enforcement agency’s Mounted Unit, or a K-9 Unit from a recognized non-law enforcement entity.

Police Bicycles

Police bicycles can be used to improve coverage in areas inaccessible to other vehicles, increase positive contacts, facilitate enforcement of bicycle and pedestrian regulations, or enhance stealth. Officers, and Interns assigned to Officers, are authorized to use police bicycles with the approval of their supervisor. Bicycles may be used to patrol. Bicycles shall be operated in accordance with the law. If any pursuits or felony stops are necessary, the bike user will call for a marked unit. Shift Commanders have overall control of bikes. It is the responsibility of the Equipment Officer to ensure bike operational readiness. Bike users are responsible for their care.

The following equipment will be worn during bike use:

1. Authorized uniform polo or shirt (outer garment if necessary).
2. Uniform pants or similar shorts.
3. Body armor.
4. Equipment belt and related gear.
5. Helmet.
6. Gloves (optional).

7. Portable police radio.
8. Gear bags/carriers with related items.
9. Headlight/reflectors as specified by WI law.

Plainclothes use of police bikes is authorized with the Shift Commander's permission.

Covert Vehicles

Covert vehicles are equipped for investigative purposes, are without police markings and emergency lights, are used for intelligence operations, may not be used as a regular patrol unit and shall not be used for pursuit or high risk traffic stops (call for a marked unit). Only detectives and those authorized by the Investigative Services Commander may operate covert vehicles. Uniformed personnel should not operate covert vehicles unless authorized by a supervisor. The Investigative Services Commander is responsible for the inventory, maintenance and overall control of covert vehicles. It is the user's responsibility to ensure the operational readiness of the covert vehicle. Users are responsible for the care of covert vehicles when assigned.

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV)

ATV's provide an alternative transportation option for special duty assignments. The department does not maintain ATV's. The Shift Commander or Investigative Services Commander may request the operational assistance of other City departments or the Fire District if an ATV is needed. Police personnel may operate an ATV only when authorized by the Shift Commander or Investigative Services Commander. Such authorization may be granted only if the Commander determines the employee has had adequate training or experience in ATV operation. ATV's shall be operated in accordance with the law. Users are responsible for the care of ATV's when assigned.

The following equipment will be worn for ATV use:

1. Patrol, SET, or other alternative appropriate attire authorized by the Shift Commander.
2. Equipment belt and related gear.
3. Body Armor.
4. Helmet and eye protection.
5. Portable police radio.
6. Gloves (optional).

Rental/Lease Vehicles/Equipment

Specialized equipment and vehicles may be rented/leased when authorized by the Chief. Their use will be as prescribed by the Operations Captain. Personnel assigned to such units are required to use all safety devices. Deviation from designated use must be authorized by the Operations Captain. Vehicles are not for personal use or any activity not related to assigned duties. Equipment and vehicles will be operated in accordance with the law. If any pursuits or high risk stops are necessary, the user will call for a marked unit. It is the responsibility of the

assigned officers' supervisor to insure operational readiness. Users are responsible for their care when assigned.

Police Motorcycles

Authorization

Members of the department who possess a valid motorcycle endorsed driver's license may operate a department motorcycle with the approval of the Chief or his or her designee. This includes, but is not limited to, conveyance of a motorcycle from one location to another, ceremonial assignments such as parades, and public relation events. Consideration for approval will be based on motorcycle riding experience, type of motorcycle the officer is experienced in operating, and previous training. Only officers assigned as a Motorcycle Patrol Operator may operate a department motorcycle for dignitary escorts, patrol or enforcement purposes, or to respond to calls for service, make traffic stops, or actively participate in a pursuit. (Any police motorcycle involved in a pursuit shall relinquish pursuit to a marked unit as soon as possible.)

Motorcycle Patrol Operator

Motorcycle patrol operator is a specialized assignment requiring the following:

1. Valid Wisconsin driver's license;
2. Motorcycle endorsement;
3. Passing the departments physical fitness test; and
4. Completion of an approved police motorcycle operator's training course with a score/grade approved by the Chief.

Other considerations include motorcycle riding experience, length of time since motorcycle endorsement was obtained, types of motorcycles the officer is experienced in riding, previous training, and traffic enforcement experience. Assignments as Motorcycle Patrol Operator are made at the discretion of the Chief. Officers wishing to be considered for assignment shall notify their supervisor of their interest. Assignment as a Motorcycle Patrol Operator may necessitate temporary assignment to day or early cover shift, at the discretion of the Chief or his or her designee.

Motorcycle Patrol Operators primarily use the motorcycle as a traffic enforcement tool, but the Motorcycle Patrol Operator will be available as back up to other patrol officers if no one else is available, and can be used for response to emergency calls for service if needed. The officer assigned as a Motorcycle Patrol Operator shall use good judgment when making decisions to respond to emergency calls for service, in consideration of the unique characteristics of the motorcycle.

Motorcycle operators shall, at the start of their tour of duty, inspect the motorcycle for cleanliness and proper operation including, but not limited to:

1. Lights (headlamp, brake lamp, directional signals, emergency lights).
2. Siren and horn.
3. Brakes, front and back.
4. Tire pressure.
5. Oil and fuel.

6. Mirrors.
7. Drive belt tension.

All operators of police motorcycles shall use the following safety equipment:

1. Snell or DOT approved safety helmet approved by MIPD for uniform wear.
2. Eye protection (windshield is not sufficient).
3. Department issued hand-held radio with lapel microphone for communications.
4. Authorized uniform.
5. Equipment belt and related gear.
6. Body Armor.
7. Boots (Motorcycle Patrol Operator).
8. Gloves, full finger or fingerless leather (Motorcycle Patrol Operator).

The motorcycle shall be stocked with basic first-aid equipment.

The Operations Captain has overall control of police motorcycles. It is the responsibility of assigned Motorcycle Patrol Operators to insure the operational readiness of motorcycles. It is the responsibility of users to have the necessary reports, citations and other items necessary to complete their assignment. Users are responsible for the care of a motorcycle when assigned.