Billerica Police Department	POLICY NUMBER OPS-25	PAGES 8	EFFECTIVE 9/1/2026
	Accreditation Standards: 1.1.4, 1.1.5, 1.1.6, 1.1.9, 1.1.12 **Issuing Status** NEW ☒ AMENDED ☐ REVIEWED ☒		

Baton

I. Background

A. Consistent with the Billerica Police Department and Procedures "Use of Force" provides guidelines for the use of baton, listed in **OPS-1 Use of Force**.

II. Policy

A. All officers can carry the department approved positive expandable baton listed in Appendix C in the **ADM-6 Authorized Weapons** policy while assigned to patrol duty. Department approved expandable batons may not be carried off duty. Non-full-time officers can carry the baton in accordance with their certification and BPD policies.

III. Authorized Weapons

A. Agency Approved Less Than Lethal Weapons (ADM-6 Appendix C)

Make	Model	Type	Ammunition
Taser	X2	Electronic	Taser Smart Cartridge 25 Ft Probe
ASP	Friction Lock 21"-26"	Baton	N/A
Monadnock	Autolock 21"-26"	Baton	N/A
Monadnock	Straight 21"-26"	Baton	N/A
Monadnock	Friction Lock 21-26"	Baton	N/A
Sabre	10.0 Stream	Chemical (OC)	N/A

IV. Tactics

A. The expandable baton is collapsible and can be used as either an escort tool or as an impact weapon.
B. The expandable baton can be carried either on the strong side or support side of the duty belt, as long as it does not interfere with other weapon systems and/or equipment
C. The baton can be extended and displayed as a deterrent to a subject, in the effort to gain voluntarily compliance before a strike is warranted. Officers shall continuously evaluate the circumstances of the encounter with the goal of exploiting both verbal and tactical opportunities with the intent of de-escalating to a lower force level.
D. During a close-range encounter and in an applicable use of force situation, the officer should strike and immediately move to avoid an attempted attack and re-evaluate.
E. When the expandable baton is used an impact weapon, an officer should attempt to strike a primary area (green). The officer may strike a subject in the secondary (yellow) target areas when a primary target area is unavailable, or fails to overcome resistance, or does not correspond to the threat level. A strike to the lethal area (red) is justified in confrontations where the subject is attempting to cause serious bodily injury or death to an officer or another. Refer to the Expandable Baton Training Chart for Primary, Secondary, and Lethal areas.

F. Unless Lethal force is justified, officers shall not deliberately make strikes to:

- The face
- The head
- The neck
- The spine
- The sternum

V. Precautions

A. The expandable baton may be used as a “escort” tool for overcoming active resistant behavior. It may also be used as a striking weapon for overcoming assaultive-bodily harm behavior. The baton shall not be used in a punitive manner.

B. Use reasonable caution prior to striking subjects who are physically engaged with other officers or not isolated from bystanders.

C. Recognize that the expandable baton is a less-lethal weapon and may be an insufficient level of force against an attacker armed with a firearm, knife, or other deadly weapon.

D. If the expandable baton has been used against the suspect, and once the suspect is in custody, the arresting officer shall arrange for a medical evaluation of the suspect at the booking facility or on scene by EMS personnel. All medical attention received will be noted in the officer's report.

E. All injuries shall be photographed and properly documented.

VI. Placement on the Use of Force Continuum

***I. LEVEL THREE**: The Resistant (active) Subject:*

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Perceived Subject Actions

The subject's non-compliance has increased in scope and intensity and now includes energy enhanced physical or mechanical defiance. The individual has directed his or her physical strength and energy in establishing, achieving and/or maintaining a posture of resistance.

Perceived Circumstances Are**: **VOLATILE

The officer is now confronted with the presence and/or potential of an increase in the threat intensity, severity, etc. The officer recognizes this increase in the threat potential and must deploy techniques and tactics that would overcome and/or control this increased risk

***The Reasonable Officer Response Is**: Compliance Techniques*

These compliance techniques would include, but not be limited to those force tactics listed below.

***COMPLIANCE TECHNIQUES**:*

- *Front Wristlock*
- *Rear Wristlock*
- *Bent Wristlock*
- *Arm Bar*
- *Baton - Arm Lock-Only*

***NON CHEMICAL AGENTS**:*

- *Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray*

***LEVEL FOUR**: The Assaultive (bodily harm) Subject:*

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Perceived Subject Actions

The officer's attempt to gain lawful compliance has concluded in a perceived or actual attack on the officer or another person(s). The officer makes the reasonable assessment that such actions by the subject would result in bodily harm to him/herself or another.

Perceived Circumstances Are: HARMFUL

The officer perceives an accelerated assessment of danger. The situation has reached a degree where the physical well-being of the officer or another person is in jeopardy if the subject is not stopped and controlled.

***The Reasonable Officer Response Is**: DEFENSIVE TACTICS.*

These defensive tactics would include, but not be limited to those force tactics listed below.

DEFENSIVE TACTICS

Weaponless Force Techniques:

- *Head, Hands, Elbows,*
- *Knees, Feet*

Impact Weapons Techniques:

- *Issued Baton,*
- *Taser Probe Deployment (drive stun not preferred)*

VII. Use Against an Officer

A. If the suspects attempts to gain control of the baton, the officer shall employ weapons control techniques.

B. If a suspect gains control of the officer's baton, disengage and consider other use of force options

C. An Officer's response to being threatened to being struck with a blunt instrument may include deadly force if the officer is unable to disengage and reasonably believes that he/she or another is in immediate danger of death or serious bodily injury.

D. The officer shall promptly notify his immediate supervisor of the incident as soon as possible. Officers shall attempt to locate and identify all witnesses, documenting their statements.

VIII. Reporting Requirement

A. Use of a baton requires that a Use of Force report be submitted in addition to an incident report. If injuries result from the use of force, every officer who witnessed the incident shall submit a supplemental narrative to be included with the initial report.

B. The incident report narrative will include:

- Circumstances leading to use
- Number of strikes deployed
- Location of hits
- Effectiveness of device, and
- Medical follow-up and results thereof.

C. Officers shall promptly notify his/her immediate supervisor of the incident as soon as practical. Officers shall attempt to locate and identify all witnesses, documenting their statements. The patrol supervisor should also collect evidence, photograph any injuries, and witnesses' statements for their use of force investigation.

XI. Medical Aid

A. In an effort to minimize pain, suffering and further injuries, officers shall, as soon as possible, render appropriate medical aid (based on officers training on level of care) to individuals after the use of lethal or less lethal weapons, weaponless tactics or other use of force incidents as defined by this policy, whenever a person:
B. Has a visible injury
C. Is unresponsive or unconscious
D. A person in medical distress I.e., unable to breath, labored breathing, wheezing, etc.
E. Suspect or detainee complains of injury or requests medical attention
F. Injuries sustained during apprehension or law enforcement action (i.e. injuries from falls or injuries from broken glass, cruiser and pursuit crashes, K9 contact, detainees who are injured, etc.)

G. The instances of when medical attention is necessary listed In the previous paragraph should also be given during any call of service, or during the detention or arrest of a person when applicable.

H. Proper medical aid may include any of the following:

- Increased observation to detect obvious changes in their condition
- The flushing of chemical agents from the eyes of an affected person
- Applying first aid within the scope and training of the officer for any obvious severe injuries or unconsciousness
- CPR
- Evaluation on scene or at the station by a Billerica Paramedic or firefighter; or for more serious or life-threatening incidents, immediate aid by Paramedics or transportation to a medical facility.

I. When transporting individuals involved in contentious police actions or following a use of force incident, consideration should be given to utilize police personnel not directly involved in the action, if feasible.

J. The Officer will promptly notify his immediate supervisor of the incident as soon as practical. Officers will attempt to locate and identify all witnesses, documenting their statements. The patrol supervisor should also collect evidence, photograph any injuries, and witnesses statements for their use of force investigation.

IX. Training

A. No officer shall be issued or use an expandable baton until they completed the basic certification program, taught by a certified defensive tactics instructor. A Municipal Police Training Committee approved course at in-service or a department certified defensive tactics instructor will provide officers biennial instruction to maintain proficiency as required. A written lesson plan for this training will be established and maintained by the training unit.

B. Officers who fail to demonstrate proficiency with the Baton or Use of Force Policy will be provided remedial training. If a Officer cannot demonstrate proficiency with the baton or knowledge of the Use of Force Policy after remedial training, the Officer will be restricted from carrying the Baton and further remedial training will be provided until proficiency can be achieved.

X. Care and Maintenance

A. After each use, officers shall examine the expandable baton for damage. If the baton is damaged, it shall be taken out of service until a replacement can be purchased.

B. Officers should test the baton periodically to ensure it functions properly.

C. If the expandable baton becomes wet or dirty, it should be wiped down clean to remove moisture. Officers shall not disassemble this weapon, and should consult the defensive tactics instructor with any issues. Officers shall not apply oil to the expandable baton.

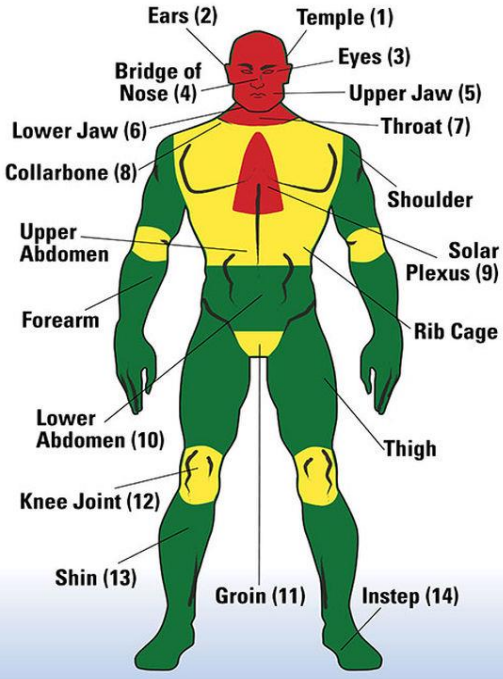
D. A certified defensive tactics instructor shall inspect each expandable baton during recertification training, and will maintain an inspection log that documents baton inspections with the date of inspection and inspectors name.

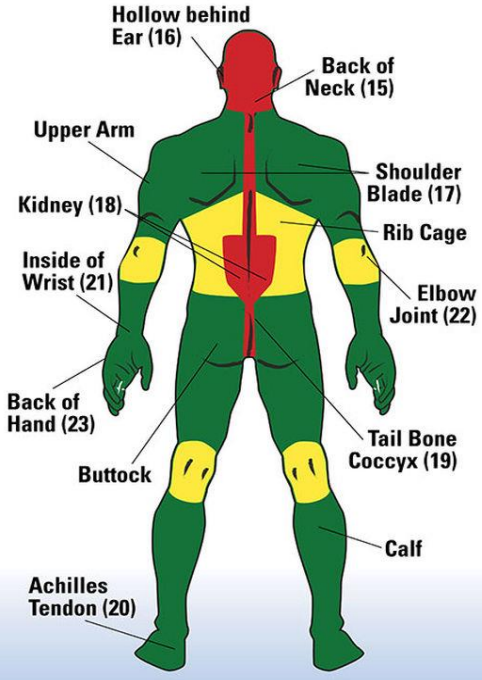
E. The department armorer will keep an inventory control log of all department issued or self-purchased batons, to include serial number, make, model, and date of issue (if applicable). The list will be maintained by the department armorer and the list will be stored in the Armory.

BATON CHART

Escalation of Trauma By Vital And Vulnerable Striking Areas

MONADNOCK™





STRIKING AREAS

GREEN	YELLOW	RED
REASONING Minimal level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to be temporary rather than long-lasting, however exceptions can occur. Except for the HEAD, NECK, SPINE, the whole body is a Green Target Area for the application of baton blocking and restraint skills.	REASONING Moderate to serious level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to be more long-lasting, but may also be temporary.	REASONING Highest level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to range from serious to long-lasting rather than temporary and may include unconsciousness, serious bodily injury, shock or death.

When performing Static /Dynamic training techniques utilizing this baton chart as a reference, it is suggested to use training batons while performing any technique. If utilizing a training suit it is also recommended to utilize training batons while performing striking, jabbing techniques.

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