

DESOTO POLICE DEPARTMENT WRITTEN DIRECTIVES

POLICY: 105.012 – APPROVED FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION	CALEA: 1.2.2, 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.3.3, 17.5.1, 22.1.6, 41.3.4,
Effective Date: 03/22/2021	Review Date: 3/22/2023
Revised Date: 09/04/2024	
Related Directive(s):	
Related Form(s):	
Issued by: J. Costa, Chief of Police	

I. PURPOSE

This directive specifies the procedures used to document approval of all types of lethal and less than lethal firearms authorized for employee use in official duties both on and off duty.

II. POLICY

Firearms and ammunition must meet agency-authorized specifications in order to be used by agency personnel in law enforcement responsibilities on or off duty.

III. PROCEDURES

A. General Statements

1. The Department issues a 9mm sidearm (Glock 17 MOS) with Trijicon Night sight suppressor (white front) for on-duty use.
2. The Department will issue the Streamlight TLR-1 flashlight (firearm mounted flashlight) and the officer will have the option to carry on the department issued sidearm.
3. The Department will issue the the Trijicon RMR 09 optic and the officer will have the option to carry this optic on their Department issued sidearm.
4. Officers may purchase alternate 9mm or additional (back-up) firearms with approval per this policy.
5. The Department provides shotguns for duty use.
6. All firearms, whether issued, alternate, or off-duty, shall be subject to inspection at any time.
7. All employees are reminded that regardless of their duty status, they are responsible for the safe and secure storage of all departmental-issued lethal, less-lethal firearms, non-lethal and ammunition.
8. The Department will issue patrol rifles meeting the standard of this policy when available to officers who have completed a basic rifle school.
9. Chief of Police or designee may at any time approve or deny the use of any firearm.

B. Approval of non-issue Firearms

1. Firearms - Officers may not carry a firearm for law enforcement use either on or off duty until the Senior firearms instructor has inspected and approved the firearm. The firearms instructor will ensure the following, regarding the firearm:
 - a. The firearm is an approved make, model, and caliber,
 - b. The firearm is safe and in good working order,
 - c. The firearm has not been modified in an inappropriate manner,
 - d. If the firearm has not been approved for use by make, model and caliber, then it is presented to the Chief of Police for consideration and approval,
 - e. The officer has qualified with the firearm, and



DESOTO POLICE DEPARTMENT WRITTEN DIRECTIVES

f. The firearm has been recorded in departmental weapons files by:

- (1) Type
- (2) Description
- (3) Model
- (4) Serial Number
- (5) Employee who will carry the firearm
- (6) Firearms instructor making the approval
- (7) Date of approval
- (8) Date firearm proficiency was demonstrated
- (9) Proficiency scores demonstrated on the specific date
- (10) The qualifying course used to demonstrate proficiency.

2. Any Department firearm instructor, who determines that a particular firearm does not meet specifications or is not safe for whatever reason, shall immediately remove the firearm from employee use. If the Department owns the firearm, the employee will be furnished with a replacement firearm.

3. The possession of a Texas concealed handgun permit (CHL) does not exempt an officer from adherence to this Administrative Directive.

C. Requests to use an Alternate Weapon

1. Requests to carry an alternate sidearm and/or shotgun must be made at least 10 days prior to scheduled qualification. The request should be submitted through the chain of command to the department's Firearms/Range Training Coordinator.

2. No weapon or modification will be permitted until proper evaluation indicates the weapon and/or modification meets approved standards of reliability.

3. The officer must qualify with the alternate weapon prior to approval.

4. If an alternate sidearm is approved, the sidearm issued by the DeSoto Police Department must be returned to the quartermaster.

5. Alternate weapons for off duty must be of a commercial brand available from and manufactured by a major supplier proving performance standards and demonstrated reliability.

6. All grips for alternate firearms must be wood, simulated wood, or neoprene rubber, either smooth or checkered. No bone, metal, or engraved grips will be allowed.

D. AR15/M16, Ruger Mini 14 Rifles

The AR15/M16, Ruger Mini 14 223/5.56mm and 6.8 Caliber semi-automatic rifles are approved for on duty patrol use. This provides DeSoto officers with additional tools and means to respond to a growing increase in use of high powered and high capacity weapons to commit crimes. Officers must be able to respond quickly and expeditiously to face these critical situations.

1. These weapons are crucial duty equipment and shall be treated, handled and cared for as any agency issued equipment. The weapon will be subject to an inspection during line inspections.

a. Officers will only carry their weapons, after a Department rifle instructor has approved the weapon, and they have completed the approved departmental rifle school.



DESOTO POLICE DEPARTMENT WRITTEN DIRECTIVES

- b. Officers must demonstrate proficiency with the weapon. Proficiency with the weapon will include safe handling, proper cleaning procedures, and knowledge of how the weapon functions as well as marksmanship.
- c. To increase safety and as a precaution to prevent theft the weapon must be carried in the police vehicle's trunk.
- d. These weapons shall not be used as primary weapons for routine patrol responses such as traffic stops, alarm calls and building searches, etc.
- e. All 223/5.56mm and 6.8 caliber ammunition carried in the weapons for duty use shall meet the standards recommended by the firearm instructors and approved by the Chief of Police.

223/5.56 caliber ammunition

Federal LE223T1 55 gr. Bonded Soft Point (BSP)

Federal LE223T3 62 grain Bonded Soft Point (BSP)

Winchester Q3283 60 grain Nosler Partition

Federal T223L Tactical Rifle Urban (TRU) 64 grain Soft Point

Remington MCL223R3 55gr. Bonded soft point

Winchester 64 grain bonded solid base

6.8 caliber ammunition

Hornady 110 BTHP

6.8 V-Max

- f. In any case officers shall not leave the weapon unsecured or in open view in the police vehicle.
- g. Fully automatic weapons are prohibited for routine patrol
- h. The departmental firearms instructor shall maintain a current list of the make, model and serial number of every rifle approved for on duty use by DeSoto police officers. Officers are responsible to ensure that complete and accurate information regarding any rifle is supplied to the firearm instructor.
- i. The Chief of Police reserves the right to prohibit any officer from carrying an AR15/M16, Ruger Mini 14 223/5.56mm or 6.8 caliber semi-automatic rifle.

