



BODY ARMOR		
✓ new: rescinds: amends:		cross-reference: accreditation standards: NYSLEAP Standard(s): 41.1 & 41.3
effective date: February, 2020	amend date:	

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office to maximize officer safety through the individual use of soft body armor. While soft body armor provides a significant level of protection, it is not a substitute for the diligent use of officer safety practices. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for distribution and use of soft body armor.

II. PROCEDURES

- A. Soft body armor vests shall be issued to all sworn deputy sheriffs.
- B. All sworn personnel assigned to uniformed functions and non-uniformed functions are required to wear department issued body armor while engaged in field activities and/or tasks that place or could place officers in situations where they would be required to act in an enforcement role rather than in an administrative or support role. Members engaged in administrative functions or tasks shall have their vest readily available.
- C. Each member is responsible for the proper storage and daily inspection of his/her body armor for damage and general cleanliness. The cleaning of the soft body armor shall be done by the member following the manufacturer's instruction. The officer is responsible for reporting in writing any damage or wear to their immediate supervisor, who will forward the written report to the Sheriff through the chain of command.
- D. Each officer will receive periodic training that demonstrates the armor's stopping power and that emphasizes its safe and proper use.
- E. Soft body armor will be inspected at least annually, generally at firearms training. Armor will be checked for recommended expiration date from the date of issue, wear and tear, and fit. Deficiencies will result in written communication to the Sheriff through the chain of command and the vest will be repaired or replaced as soon as practical.

III. SUPERVISORS RESPONSIBILITY:

Immediate supervisors will verify that this policy is complied with and shall be responsible for ensuring that body armor is worn and maintained as required.

IV. EXCEPTIONS

- A. When an officer is involved in undercover or plain clothes work that their supervisor determines could be compromised by wearing body armor.
- B. When an officer is assigned to perform an administrative function which usually involves no patrol or response to patrol functions.
- C. During training, except for firearms training or other times specified by the instructor.
- D. When the Sheriff or designee determines an exception is appropriate due to exceptional circumstances. When exempted as stated above, the officer must have their armor within reach whenever practical.

By Order Of



Derek Osborne
Sheriff