YUMA POLICE DEPARTMENT Policy and Procedures *"Committed to Excellence"*	**2.26 Departmental Firearms**
Effective: February 18, 2026	*Supersedes: June 3, 2022*

A. Purpose

1. This policy shall establish firearms and ammunition authorized to be carried by officers on or off duty that are carried for potential police use. This policy is not intended to prevent officers from having a firearm in their possession that is intended for any other lawful use.
2. Authorization to carry a concealed handgun is governed by department policy, local, state and federal laws. Arizona Revised Statute (ARS) 38-1113, Carrying of firearms by peace officers; exceptions; definitions, establishes specific state laws as they pertain to officers carrying firearms. Officers shall be familiar with all related department policies, local, state and federal laws. The use and possession of firearms and ammunition by sworn personnel, both on and off duty, are limited to those authorized by the Chief of Police, consistent with Arizona Revised Statutes **(ALEAP 1.5)**.

B. Authorized Firearms

1. Current Departmental Issued Firearm
   a. "The Sig Sauer P320 handgun is prohibited for all forms of carry by Yuma Police Department personnel, including both on-duty and backup weapons".
2. Officer Owned Firearm
   a. Must be approved by Department Firearms Staff, Firearms Lieutenant and the Chief of Police.
   b. Shall be of a caliber consistent with ammunition currently issued by the department.
   c. Shall be a contemporary make and model as manufactured by a reputable company recognized as such by police agencies and/or military organizations.
   d. Shall be equipped with appropriate unaltered safeties as designed and built by the manufacturer.
      - Double action/single action handguns shall be equipped with a de-cocking device designed to safely lower the hammer from the single action mode.
      - All handguns shall be equipped with a firing pin safety that blocks the firing pin/striker from striking the primer unintentionally.
   e. Officers choosing to carry a personally owned firearm shall first obtain authorization from their Lieutenant. The officer shall complete and sign the Notification of Personally Owned On-Duty Firearm form. The personally owned firearm is not authorized for on-duty carry until the officer has qualified with the firearm and the Firearms Lieutenant has received the form and authorized its carry. The Firearms Lieutenant is responsible for maintaining the completed forms.

f. Officers are responsible for meeting all federal and state laws to possess a personally owned short-barreled rifle or suppressor. A copy of the tax stamp issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE) must be provided to the Firearms Lieutenant prior to on-duty use.
g. Maintenance and repair of authorized personally owned firearms are the responsibility of the individual officer.

3. Handguns shall be one of the following formats:
   a. Semi-automatic pistol
      - Double action only
      - Double action/single action
      - Single action only
      - Maximum barrel length of six inches
   b. Revolver (off-duty or back-up only)
      - Double action/single action
      - Double action only
      - Maximum barrel length of four inches
   c. For the purpose of this policy the following definitions apply:
      - Double Action – Pulling the trigger has the effect of partially or fully cocking the hammer or striker.
      - Single Action – The hammer or striker can be set and held in a fully cocked position. Pulling of the trigger when the hammer or striker is in this position has the effect of releasing the sear only and has no effect on cocking, either fully or partially, the hammer or striker.
      - Double Action Only – Double action firing only and cannot be mechanically set to the single action mode.
      - Single Action Only – Single action firing only and cannot be mechanically fired double action.
4. Shotguns shall be one of the following formats:
   a. Pump action
   b. Pump action-Less lethal
      - The less lethal shotguns shall be marked with yellow or orange markings.
   c. Semi-automatic
      - The shotguns shall be equipped with a conventional front sight and rear sight (optics optional), side saddle and sling.
5. Rifles shall be one of the following formats
   a. AR-15 platform .223/5.56mm
   b. Bolt action – S.E.T. only
   c. HK MP5 – S.E.T. only
   d. Rifles, other than SET (Sniper) bolt action rifles, shall be equipped with a conventional front sight and rear sight (optics optional), and sling.
      Department-issued rifles shall be equipped with iron sights, red dot sight optic, a sling, and a suppressor.
6. Modifications and attachments
   a. All firearm modifications, aftermarket parts, and attachments shall be

inspected by a Department Firearms Instructor and/or Armorer and approved by the Firearms Lieutenant prior to being authorized for law enforcement-related use. It shall be inspected annually thereafter during qualification.

b. Modifications
   - No permanent modifications shall be made to department issued weapons unless authorized by the Chief of Police or designee.
   - Any modifications to department firearms shall be completed by an authorized gunsmith or Department Armorer as appropriate.
   - No modifications shall be made to any firearm, carried for police purposes, that affects the mechanical function of the firearm as designed by the original firearm manufacturer.

c. Attachments (i.e. weapon lights, optics, slings, modified grips, etc.)
   - If an officer changes or adds an attachment to their firearm, he/she must be able to demonstrate proficiency with, and functionality of, the changed/added item.
   - Officers shall demonstrate proficiency with primary and back-up sighting systems, if so equipped, to include laser sights. Laser sights shall not be used on handguns.
   - Officers will not remove RDS or suppressors attached to department issued weapons. If removal is necessary for cleaning or repair, a department firearms instructor or armorer shall remove and reattach the item.

7. Optics
   a. Officers utilizing a Red Dot Sight (RDS) on an authorized handgun or rifle, prior to use for duty, must:
      - Attend a mandatory transition training program instructed by the department Firearms staff.
      - Have the RDS installed by, or if already installed, inspected by, a department Firearms Instructor.
   b. Officers who attach an RDS to an authorized handgun, rifle, or shotgun, for duty use, shall demonstrate proficiency with their iron sights and RDS through the appropriate qualification course prior to on-duty carry.
8. Additional Requirements
   a. Officers are required to qualify with all firearms prior to being carried and/or used for law enforcement purposes and annually thereafter. See Policy 2.27 Firearms Qualification.
   b. Officers may only qualify with one of each of the following each calendar year:
      - Primary duty handgun (Department issued or personally owned).
      - Off-duty or back-up handgun
   c. Firearms shall be inspected by a Department Firearms Instructor or Armorer prior to initial qualification and prior to annual qualification thereafter.
   d. Officers are required to use department issued ammunition in all firearms carried/used for law enforcement purposes.
      - Ammunition shall not be modified.
      - Ammunition shall be inspected periodically to ensure it is not damaged or unserviceable.

- Currently issued/carried ammunition shall be used during annual qualification.
- The department shall issue new ammunition after the annual firearms qualification.

e. Firearms carried on-duty or off-duty shall be maintained in a clean, serviceable condition.
f. If, in the opinion of a Department Firearms Instructor or Armorer, any weapon or equipment associated with it (holsters, magazines, speed loaders, etc.) is unsafe, either from design, mechanical defect, or unauthorized modifications, the weapon and/or equipment shall not be authorized for on-duty, off-duty, or back-up use.

C. Carry Options – On-Duty

1. Primary Duty Handgun
   a. A primary duty handgun shall be issued to each officer.
   b. Officers are authorized to carry a personally owned handgun.
      - See section A.2.e. of this policy.
      - If an officer requests and is authorized to carry a personally owned handgun on duty, then the officer shall not be issued or retain a department issued handgun.
   c. Handguns shall be carried with a round in the chamber and a fully loaded magazine inserted.
      - Double action/single action handguns shall be de-cocked.
      - Manual safeties shall be engaged where applicable.
   d. Uniformed officers shall carry the department issued primary duty handgun or an authorized personally owned handgun in a holster/device with an active retention system.
   e. Officers on duty in civilian attire shall carry the department issued primary duty handgun or an authorized personally owned handgun.
      - If the handgun is carried unconcealed while on-duty
        - It shall be carried in a holster/device with an active retention system.
        - The police badge shall be worn in a conspicuous location.
      - If the handgun is carried concealed while on-duty
        - It shall be carried in a holster/device that holds the handgun securely and prevents it from being removed or coming loose unintentionally.
        - Displaying of the police badge is optional.
      - The officer's police credentials shall be carried on the officer's person anytime a handgun is being carried on-duty.
   f. Extended magazines are not authorized for duty use as the primary magazine for the standard size primary duty handgun. The extended magazine may be carried in a magazine pouch on the officer's duty belt or outer vest carrier.
2. Back-up handguns
   a. A back-up handgun is defined as an additional handgun carried by an officer while on-duty and intended for emergency use if and when the primary handgun becomes unavailable or inoperable.

b. Officers may, at their own discretion, carry an authorized back-up handgun. It shall be carried concealed in a holster/device that holds the handgun securely and prevents it from being removed or coming loose unintentionally.
c. Handguns designated and qualified with as a back-up firearm shall be carried only in conjunction with a primary firearm if it is being carried on duty.
d. Handguns shall be carried with a round in the chamber and a fully loaded magazine inserted.
   - Double action/single action handguns shall be de-cocked.
   - Manual safeties shall be engaged where applicable.
e. Officers carrying a compact or subcompact handgun for back-up duty purposes are authorized the addition of the magazine finger groove extension.

3. Rifles and Shotguns
   a. Officers may, at their own discretion, carry an authorized rifle or shotgun in their vehicle subject to supervisor direction/authorization.
   b. Special Enforcement Team (S.E.T.) personnel are authorized to carry and deploy the weapons they have been certified with.
   c. A rifle or shotgun carried in vehicle shall have:
      - Safety on
      - Chamber empty
      - Magazine loaded
      - Action closed
   d. A rifle or shotgun within the patrol vehicle shall be carried in a secure manner, either:
      - Locked in a vehicle mounted rifle/shotgun rack
      - Locked in a vehicle trunk vault
      - In a case locked in the trunk of the vehicle
   e. Loaded rifles or shotguns will not be brought into the police building.
      - Loading, unloading, or inspection of rifles or shotguns will be conducted with the muzzle of the rifle or shotgun pointed into a bullet trap.
      - Rifles or shotguns brought into the police building will have the magazine removed for rifles, or magazine tube empty for shotguns, safety on, chamber open, and muzzle pointed upward.

D. Carry Options - Off-Duty Handgun

1. An off-duty handgun is defined as a handgun carried by an officer while in an off-duty status but intended for potential police use. Off-duty carry refers to carry under his/her police authority, including pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 926.B (ALEAP 1.5). This policy is not intended to prevent officers from having a handgun in their possession that is intended for any other lawful use.
2. Officers may, at their own discretion, carry an authorized handgun concealed while off-duty.
   a. Authorization to carry a concealed handgun is governed by department policy, local, state and federal laws. Officers shall be familiar with department policy, local, state and federal laws as they pertain to the carry of concealed handguns.

b. Off-duty handguns shall be carried concealed in a holster/device that holds the handgun securely and prevents it from being removed or coming loose unintentionally.
c. Off-duty officers carrying a handgun concealed will wear no visible police identification.
d. The officer's police credentials shall be carried on the officer's person anytime an off-duty handgun is being carried.
e. Officers carrying an off-duty handgun shall exercise discretion, considering the reputation of the department (e.g., when consuming alcohol).
f. Any display or use of the handgun will be governed by the same regulations that apply to on-duty personnel.
g. Handguns shall be carried with a round in the chamber and a fully loaded magazine inserted.
    - Double action/single action handguns shall be de-cocked.
    - Manual safeties shall be engaged where applicable.

E. Flying While Armed

1. Officers must be flying in connection with assigned duties and have a need to have the weapon accessible from the time they would otherwise check the weapon until the time it would be claimed after deplaning. The need to have the weapon accessible must be determined by the employing agency.
2. All requests to fly on aircraft while armed shall go to the Chief of Police via the chain of command.
3. Officers shall be familiar with and comply with current regulations as defined by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Federal Regulations to include CFR1544.219.

F. Cleaning of firearms

1. It is each officer's responsibility to keep department issued firearms clean and in good repair at all times.
2. Officers shall field strip and clean their department issued firearm/s at least once a month or when dirty and check for:
    a. Rust
    b. Free slide/action movement
    c. Proper lubrication of slide rails
    d. Any damage to the firearm to include magazines
3. Officers shall not clean, repair, load or unload a firearm anywhere in the Department, except in designated areas.
4. Supervisors shall periodically inspect officers' department issued firearms to ensure they are clean, oiled, rust free and undamaged.

G. Storage

1. Firearms shall be safely stored when not in use or being carried for potential police use.
   a. Firearms shall be stored in a manner that prevents unintended users (i.e. children, untrained persons, etc.) from discharging the firearm.
      - Use department issued/manufacturer's lock to prevent operation of firearm.
      - Store in a locked device such as a locking case, cabinet or safe.
   b. Off-duty officers shall not store firearms in locked vehicles, to include the trunk, while the vehicle is parked in a public place or outside the officer's home for an extended period of time, unless other means of security are used (i.e. locking vault within vehicle, locking gun rack, etc).
   c. Armories are used to store firearms within the police department.
      - S.E.T. Armory is used to store department owned firearms, ammunition, chemical weapons, tactical gear, and firearms training materials.
      - Special Weapons Issue Room (S.W.I. Room) is used to store rifles, shotguns and extended range impact weapons.
      - Indoor Range and Firearms Cleaning Room are designated for use by Department Firearms Instructors and are used to store non-issued department owned firearms, ammunition, firearms cleaning supplies, firearms training materials and indoor range equipment.
      - Safety Data Sheets will be maintained in the above-listed storage areas on all of the chemical weapons and cleaning supplies used or stored in these rooms. See City of Yuma Safety Regulation #5 Hazard Communication (HAZCOM) for the citywide hazard communication program.
      - Unauthorized access to armories is prohibited. The Firearms Lieutenant and the S.E.T. Commander are responsible for establishing inventory control systems and safety procedures for the respective armories.

H. Retirement – YPD Handgun Purchase

1. YPD Sworn Personnel retiring in good standing are eligible to purchase their assigned duty handgun for the cost of one dollar. The retiree has the option to purchase any YPD issued accessories on the handgun at the department price. If the retiree chooses not to purchase the accessory, an authorized YPD Armorer, or appropriate designee, shall remove the accessory prior to presenting the retiree with their duty handgun. Contact the YPD Firearms Lieutenant for further information on the cost of handgun accessories.