


<b>FRAMINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>		Next Review Date: 05/19/2021
<b>Subject: Policy on Service Firearms</b>		Effective Date: 05/19/2020
<b>Category: 50 - General Management</b>		Expiration Date: Indefinite
MASSACHUSETTS POLICE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS REFERENCED: <a href="#">1.2.2</a> , <a href="#">1.3.3</a> , <a href="#">1.3.9</a> , <a href="#">1.3.10</a> , <a href="#">1.3.11</a> , <a href="#">1.3.12</a>		Policy No.: <b>50-4</b>
Distribution: Police Department	<p><b>Issuing Authority</b>  <i>Steven D. Trask</i>  <b>Kenneth M. Ferguson</b>  <b>Chief of Police</b></p>	

**POLICY STATEMENT**

Police officers are issued firearms and are trained in their use, for self-protection and for the protection of the public in the community in which they serve. The use of a firearm is the highest degree of force a police officer may apply and the decision to use a firearm is the most critical judgment a police officer is called upon to make.

The moment an officer discharges a firearm the action is irreversible. It is too late to ponder whether or not the action is legally and justifiably correct. On the other hand, an officer who hesitates and acts indecisively is potentially risking injury or death to themselves and/or another person. If a life-threatening situation should arise, then officers must be prepared to act decisively and correctly.

A thorough and continuing firearms training program will be provided to every officer of the Framingham Police Department. The training programs are designed to develop the necessary skills to effectively use firearms and to teach the safety precautions associated with firearms handling. Included in these training programs shall be instruction on when and how to use a firearm. This Department will follow training and qualification standards set by the Massachusetts Police Training Council (MPTC).

Framingham Police Officers may be issued, or authorized to carry specific firearms. Strict criteria shall be adhered to when determining the types of firearms and ammunition officers will be permitted to use while performing law enforcement activities.

It is the policy of the Framingham Police Department that officers shall only utilize firearms that have been approved for use, are mechanically sound and are properly maintained.

## **DEFINITIONS**

**Service Firearm:** any firearm issued or authorized by the Department for regularly assigned duties. Sworn police officers may carry service firearms at any time, whether on or off duty, unless an officer is specifically prohibited from carrying firearms.

### I. Service Firearms

Officer who perform line patrol and supervisory functions, including patrol supervisors and shift commanders, shall be issued a Glock Model 21 4th Generation Semi-Automatic Firearm with “night sights” and 3 magazines having a capacity of 13 rounds of .45 ACP ammunition.

Officers who regularly perform non-patrol duties, such as those who perform administrative, prosecutorial, and investigative functions shall be issued either a Glock Model 21 4th Generation Semi-Automatic Firearm with “night sights” and 3 magazines having a capacity of 13 rounds or a Glock Model 30 4th Generation Semi-Automatic Firearms with “night sights” and 3 magazines having a capacity of 10 or 13 rounds of .45 ACP ammunition.

The Chief of Police may authorize officers having special assignments or duties to carry firearms / holsters other than those listed herein. Such authorization shall be in writing.

No member of this Department will be authorized to carry a service firearm until [s]he has:

1. Been issued a copy and has received training on this policy and the Departments Use of Force Policy;
2. Acknowledges in writing that he/she understands this policy and the Use of Force Policy;
3. Qualifies with the service firearm as specified herein with FPD instructor;
4. Has the service firearm inspected as specified herein.

### II. Holsters

The service firearm shall only be carried in the following approved holsters:

Uniformed Patrol:

- A. Safariland – 6360

Plain Clothes

- A. Safariland – ALS 6378 level 2
- B. Safariland – STX 5198 plain paddle
- C. Bianchi – Model 82 carry lock holster

The Chief of Police may authorize officers having special assignments or duties to carry firearms / holsters other than those listed herein. Such authorization shall be in writing.

III. Off Duty Firearms

Officers are authorized to use and carry service firearms to take unanticipated action as police officers while off-duty. Officers using service firearms to take such off-duty action may be indemnified by the Town of Framingham.

IV. Ammunition

While on-duty, or taking off-duty action as a police officer, no officer may carry or use ammunition in his Department issued firearm that has not been approved by the Chief of Police.

- A. Officers are authorized to carry and use the following ammunition for on-duty use and for off-duty use when taking police action:

Federal .45 ACP 230 grain Tactical HST HP+P, Part Number: P45HST1, or other similar type ammunition issued by the Department.

- B. Officers are authorized to carry and use the following ammunition for target practice with the service firearm:

CCI Speer .45 ACP 155 grain Frangible Lead Free, Part Number: 53395, or other similar type ammunition used only for training when primary training ammunition is not available.

V. License to Carry Firearms

- A. All officers must hold a valid Class “A” unrestricted License to Carry Firearms.

- B. Officers must renew this license as necessary.
- C. Officers must not be legally prohibited from possessing or carrying firearms, or holding the above-mentioned license, by either state or federal law.
- D. If an officer becomes legally disqualified from possessing a firearm or license to carry, by virtue of an abuse prevention order or any other means, he or she shall immediately notify the on-duty commanding officer. He or she shall comply with any lawful request from another law enforcement agency, relating to the surrender of any service firearm.
- E. Should any situation, event, or condition arise which affects an officer's ability, fitness, or suitability to safely carry or possess a firearm, the officer must immediately report such situation to the on-duty commanding officer. When necessary, the commanding officer will make arrangements to have service firearm(s) secured.

#### VI. Firearms Qualification & Training

- A. Every officer must train and qualify with his or her service firearm when initially issued and at least annually. Officers should also attend tactical / situation based training at least annually on a separate training date.
- B. Officers must demonstrate proficiency in accuracy, tactical loading, reloading, clearing of malfunctions, safe gun handling, care, and cleaning of the firearms.
- C. To the fullest extent possible, the Department will provide low light training, stress training, and proper use of force decision-making training, including continuous threat assessment techniques, in the both initial and in-service firearms training programs.
- D. The Massachusetts Police Training Committee (MPTC) requires that officers handle their issued service firearm and any other firearms they may use multiple times per year for familiarization and training.
- E. Firearm instructors will critically observe students and provide corrective instruction regarding deficient firearm techniques and failure to utilize safe gun handling procedures at all times. Instructors will discuss the proper handling, storage, and safety of service firearms.
- F. The Firearms Qualification Course shall be the course approved by the MPTC. Each officer will be expected to achieve a skill level currently required by the MPTC.

- G. Qualification shall take place at an approved range under the direction and supervision of a MPTC Certified Framingham Police Firearms Instructor.
- H. Officers who fail to qualify shall immediately relinquish service firearms on which they failed to qualify. Those officers who still fail to qualify after remedial training within a reasonable time shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.
- I. Officers failing to qualify with a service firearm will lose the authorization to carry the firearm, except for target practice, until a passing qualification score is achieved.
- J. No officer who fails to qualify shall be authorized to perform a line patrol or investigative function, or work details, until he or she has achieved a passing qualification score.
- K. All officers who return long-term absences or unarmed status shall complete and satisfactorily pass firearm training and qualification before such personnel are permitted to carry and use service firearms.
- L. All newly appointed Officers must train and qualify with the weapon issued to them upon appointment, and prior to operational status. This training and qualification will be conducted by current certified Firearms Instructor(s) Assigned to the Framingham Police Department's Firearms Training Unit.

## VII. Firearm Rules and Regulations

- A. All officers are responsible for the care, cleaning and security of weapons issued to them. Officers must keep service firearms clean and fully serviceable at all times. Each officer is responsible for cleaning his or her service firearm, as soon as practical after the firearm has been fired, and periodically as needed. All cleaning materials shall be authorized by the Department.
- B. Each officer is responsible for notifying a Department Armorer if he or she determines that his or her firearm is not working properly or in need of repair.
- C. Only a certified Department armorer may alter or modify any department issued firearm, ammunition magazine or holster and only with the express permission of the Chief of Police.
- D. Service firearms shall be carried with the capacity number of rounds in the magazine and one round in the chamber.

- E. All officers will be responsible for the security, proper handling, and safe storage of firearms at all times. In accordance with G.L. c. 140 § 131L, whenever a firearm is not under an officer's direct control, it must be properly secured to prevent accidents or unauthorized handling.
- F. Upon the discharge (at other than approved shooting range or training facility for the purpose of practice), loss, theft, surrender, damage, destruction, of a service firearm or weapon, the officer involved must immediately notify the on-duty commanding officer of the occurrence of such an event.
- G. Accurate and complete records of all service firearms shall be maintained. Said records shall include the make, model, serial number, condition, officer to whom firearm was issued, and authorized modifications.
- H. No officer is allowed to carry or use a service firearm when the officer anticipates the use of or is under the influence of potentially mind-altering chemicals including alcohol, prescription drugs, or like substances. Consumption of alcohol while armed is not permitted.
- I. The authority to carry or possess service firearms and other issued weapons is immediately revoked upon an officer's suspension, discharge, termination, or placement on administrative leave.
- J. When carrying service firearms off-duty, officers must carry a badge, police identification card, and license to carry firearms.
- K. Except for demonstration purposes at the Police Department's firearms range, officers shall not allow any non-police personnel to carry, shoot, or possess any service firearms or weapons.
- L. Officers shall carry service firearms only in Department approved modern holsters of safe construction, and in good repair, so as to maintain control over the handgun and prevent its loss or accidental discharge.
- M. On-duty officers shall only carry service firearms and magazines in the holsters and holders which have been approved by the Chief of Police.
- N. Service firearms shall be surrendered immediately to Framingham Police Firearms instructor(s), or supervisors upon demand.

VIII. Weapon Handling

Officers shall:

- A. Handle all weapons in accordance to their training;
- B. Treat all firearms and lethal weapons as loaded, until the officer personally confirms otherwise;
- C. When discharging a firearm, exercise due care for the safety of persons and property in the area and shall fire only when reasonably certain that there is no substantial risk to bystanders.
- D. Keep their finger outside of the trigger guard until ready to engage and fire on a target.

IX. Weapon Maintenance & Field stripping

- A. In the event a semi-automatic pistol is to be examined, inspected, handled, or cleaned, it first must be made safe in the following manner:
  - 1. Keep firearm pointed in a safe direction with the finger off the trigger;
  - 2. Remove the source of ammunition (magazine);
  - 3. Eject round in the chamber by cycling the slide;
  - 4. Cycle the slide repeatedly (at least three (3) times) to ensure that cartridges are not being ejected. If cartridges are ejected, remove the magazine and repeat procedure until no cartridges are ejected;
  - 5. Lock the slide to the rear;
  - 6. Physically and visually inspect the weapon for an empty chamber;
  - 7. Once you are completely certain that the weapon is empty and clear, you may examine, inspect, and/or fieldstrip the weapon.
- B. Officers shall report and explain any weapon malfunction to a department armorer.
- C. Service firearms which become broken, defective, and/or unserviceable will be immediately removed from service and replaced. The armorer will maintain records of such removal and replacement.

## X. Service Weapon Inspections

- A. Firearm inspections may only be conducted at locations equipped with either a clearing barrel, bullet trap, or at an approved range. Such inspections shall be conducted by current / certified Framingham Police Firearms Instructor(s) currently assigned to the Firearms Training Unit.
- B. All inspections of service firearms shall be documented by the FPD Firearms Instructor conducting the inspection. Documentation shall include, at minimum, the date of the inspection, serial number of the firearm, name of the officer carrying the firearm, name of the inspector, condition of the firearm, and results of the inspection. Firearms shall be inspected prior to issuance and periodically as specified herein.
- C. Only certified FPD Firearms Instructors assigned to the Framingham Police Firearms Training Unit are authorized to make scheduled and unannounced inspections of service firearms.
- D. Training and Qualification shall include a documented inspection of any weapon used by the officer to ensure that it is in good working condition. All weapons must be inspected and approved by a department's Firearms instructor or Armorer specific to that weapon, satisfactory to the Chief of Police. Firearms or other weapons found by such instructor or Armorer to be unsafe may not be used and will be immediately taken out of service for repairs/replacement. A temporary weapon (of same make, model, caliber) will be issued while repairs are made.
- E. In addition to the above inspections, all issued service weapons shall undergo a documented inspection at least every ninety (90) days by a member of the department's Firearms Training Unit.

## XI. Service Weapon Record Keeping

- A. The armorer shall maintain accurate and up to date inventory control records of all service weapons owned by the Department, whether issued to agency personnel or not. At minimum, said records will contain serial number, name of person assigned the weapon, condition, dates, location of un-issued weapons, and repair history.

## XII. Specialized weapons and ammunition

Colt/M4,M16A1 .223 cal Hornady Tap or Federal Hi-Shock Tactical  
Benelli M4 12 gauge Federal 1oz Rifled Slug, Federal 00 Buckshot  
Ruger 10-22, Marlin 100G, Winchester 22 cal Winchester rounds  
Smith & Wesson Airlite 38, 158 Gr. Winchester SPL +P



Glock 43X 9MM, Federal Premium Tactical 9MM 124 Grain HST +P