




**WINCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATION ORDER**

**NOTE: This directive is for internal use only, and does not enlarge an employee’s civil liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or case in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violation of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this Department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.**

<b>Number</b> 2-32		<b>Effective Date</b> March 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023	<b>Review Date</b>	<b>Reviewing Division</b> Administration
<b>Subject</b> <b>Police Motorcycles</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Policy  <input type="checkbox"/> Amends  <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces:  <input type="checkbox"/> Revised:		This directive shall apply to personnel assigned to the following divisions:  <input type="checkbox"/> All Personnel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patrol Division <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administration Division <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Investigation Division	
<b>References</b>  VLEPSC:  CALEA				
 <hr/> Chief of Police or Designee		March 23, 2023 <hr/> Date		

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this directive is to prescribe procedures for the use of police motorcycles for patrol related functions, special events, and Departmental training.

**II. POLICY**

The police motorcycle is an advantageous specialty vehicle allowing officers to conduct traffic enforcement in geographical locations not accessible to a standard patrol vehicle. Motorcycles provide a quick response for officers in special events such as parades or other major events. The safety of the officer operating the motorcycle and the general public shall be paramount. The Winchester Police Department will ensure each officer assigned to the specialty motorcycle unit will be properly trained and outfitted with the appropriate equipment.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

A. Motorcycle

A motorcycle is a two or three wheeled vehicle with maximum occupancy of two individuals. A motorcycle is powered by a combustible material or electric engine and does not have pedals.

B. Motor Officer

1. Any sworn member of the Winchester Police Department selected through an internal process to attend and successfully pass the Department's training course.
2. The selected officer must have held a VA class M license for a period of at least one calendar year and must demonstrate they have substantial riding experience.

**IV. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

A. Motor Unit Supervisor

The Winchester Police Department Motor Unit supervisor will be a supervisor designated by the Chief of Police or her/his designee. The responsibilities for the supervisor will be the following:

1. Maintaining records of procurement, training, and staff selections.
2. Ensuring all active Motor Officers have successfully completed the Winchester Police Department training program and have been approved by the lead driving instructor for the Department.
3. Ensuring the motorcycle(s) are kept in a secure location and receive regular maintenance.
4. Maintaining the authority to suspend any officer from the team as deemed necessary for safety concerns. The supervisor will consult with the command staff for the appropriate action.

**V. PROCEDURES**

A. Traffic Enforcement

- a. Motorcycles may be used when staffing permits and with the approval of the officer's direct supervisor to conduct traffic enforcement. The Motor Unit Supervisor does not need to be contacted nor provide approval for each requested or directed use.
- b. During traffic enforcement, motor units will not be a primary call for service responder and be limited to traffic enforcement. The on-duty supervisor maintains the authority to utilize the officers should a call demand their assistance.
- c. Motor officers are encouraged to ride in pairs; however, staffing may not permit two officers at a time to ride. One officer may conduct

traffic enforcement and is reminded the visibility to other drivers is reduced when riding solo.

- d. Motor Unit Officers will be tasked with conducting traffic surveys, enforcement, directed patrols, and traffic crash investigations.
- e. Motorcycles may be used in most weather and climate conditions. Motorcycles should not be used when temperatures are below 32°F, snow, ice, or hazardous wind conditions. The Chief of Police or her/his designee, the Motor Unit supervisor, or the Captain of Operations may approve the use during the aforementioned conditions.
- f. Motor Unit Officers will ride as a single rider only on the Department motorcycles. The design of the motorcycles will only safely allow one rider to operate and ride upon them.

#### B. Funeral Escorts

- a. Motor Officers may lead funeral escorts for the general public if so requested. During those call for service escorts, officers will wear the uniform of the day.
- b. Funeral escorts for fallen officers will require a class A Motor Unit uniform. Further direction may be provided by the Chief of Police or her/his designee, and/or the Motor Unit supervisor.
- c. Motor Officers will use caution when traversing through traffic congested roadways at all times. The route for the escort will be determined by the Motor Officer for safety and most direct route unless designated by the Chief of Police or her/his designee.

#### C. Special Events

- a. The motorcycles may be used for special events and festivals. The use may be directed by the Chief of Police or her/his designee, Motor Unit Supervisor, Captain of Operations, or any supervisor with prior approval on an as needed basis.
- b. Special events may also include demonstrations at public safety fairs or other city approved events.

## VI. TRAINING

- A. The Winchester Police Department will develop and implement a training course designed to challenge the skills officers would face in real world riding situations. Each officer who is approved to become a rider must first pass the training set forth.
- B. The successful completion of training will be mandated prior to full clearance and approval to use the motorcycles in performance of their duties.
- C. The Chief of Police or her/his designee will sign the approval for each officer after review of their training records.
- D. A Winchester Police Department driving instructor will develop the riding course and determine pass/fail criteria.
- E. Refresher training will occur at least quarterly for each motor unit officer.
- F. The Department's motorcycles will NOT be permitted to participate in open skills competitions in the commonwealth of VA unless the officer has demonstrated a high level of proficiency in riding maneuvers. Upon a request from the officer to participate in such an event, the approval of the motor unit supervisor, operations Captain and/or the Chief of Police or her/his designee must occur.
- G. Motor officers will follow the City of Winchester policy on driving/operating a city owned vehicle, CEMS-041.

## **VII. VEHICLE PURSUITS**

- A. Police motorcycles will not normally be used for vehicle pursuits unless exigent circumstances arise and the direct approval from a supervisor exists. Supervisors should consider the following an acceptable use of a motorcycle in a pursuit event.
  - a. When the officer has probable cause to believe the pursued vehicle contains a person(s) who has committed or attempted to commit a felony involving the use of force resulting in severe bodily injury and/or death and if not immediately apprehended, may cause further danger to the public.
- B. Motorcycles are not intended to be, nor should they be considered pursuit vehicles.
- C. Motorcycles will discontinue immediately from the pursuit with the following;
  - a. Risk outweighs reward

- b. Speed creates a safety concern
- c. Inclement weather conditions
- d. A police SEDAN/SUV enters the pursuit

## **VIII. INSPECTIONS**

- A. Officers will conduct pre and post ride inspections. Inspections will be documented on the Winchester Police Department vehicle inspection sheet.
- B. Inspections will include checking the air pressure in both tires, affirming all lighting is working properly, the oil level, and no apparent damage exists.
- C. If an officer departs on a motorcycle and immediately notices damage, a defect, or other safety concern, they should immediately return the motorcycle or have it towed if deemed necessary.
- D. The Department motorcycles will be calibrated annually by a certified RADAR/LIDAR Instructor.

## **IX. EQUIPMENT**

- A. Motor Unit officers will be required to wear the following equipment/attire:
  - a. DOT approved Helmet
  - b. Motorcycle breeches
  - c. Boots
  - d. Protective eyewear
- B. Each police motorcycle will be equipped with the following:
  - a. Emergency lights and siren
  - b. Graphics identifying the motorcycles as a police vehicle.
  - c. A battery tender for each motorcycle and must be attached when not in use.

