

# EAST RANGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## BODY ARMOR

POLICY  
304

REV 03/10/2025

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### I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide sworn members of the East Range Police Department with guidelines for the proper use and care of body armor. Beginning in 2020, all officers receiving new body armor through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Program must comply with this policy.

### II. Policy

It is the policy of the East Range Police Department to maximize officer safety through the use of body armor in combination with prescribed safety procedures. While body armor provides a significant level of protection, it is not a substitute for the observance of officer safety procedures.

### III. Definitions:

Field Activities: Duty assignments and/or tasks that place or could reasonably be expected to place officers in situations where they would be required to act in enforcement rather than administrative or support capacities.

Officers: As of 2020 all sworn Police Officers of the East Range Police Department, regardless of rank who accept body armor through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP).

### IV. Procedures:

#### A. Issuance of Body Armor:

1. All body armor issued must comply with protective and related requirements prescribed under current standards of the National Institute of Justice (DOJ) or its' successor agency.
2. All officers shall be issued agency-approved body armor.
3. Body armor that is worn or damaged shall be replaced by the Department. Body armor that must be replaced due to misuse or abuse by the officer shall be paid for by the officer.

#### B. Use of Body Armor:

1. Officers shall wear only agency-approved body armor.
2. Officers that are assigned to the uniformed function are required to wear body armor during their shift while engaged in field activities.
3. Those uniformed officers assigned to administrative duties shall wear body armor when outside the confines of the police station.
4. However, there are department exemptions as follows:
  - a. When an agency-approved physician determines that an officer has a medical condition that would preclude wearing body armor.
  - b. When the officer is involved in undercover or plain clothes work that his supervisor determines could be compromised by wearing body armor; or
  - c. When the department determines that circumstances make it inappropriate to mandate wearing body armor.

**C. Inspection of Body Armor:**

1. Officers shall be responsible for ensuring that body armor is worn and maintained as requires by this policy through routine observations and periodic documented inspections at roll call and spot checks in the field.
2. Annual inspections of body armor shall be conducted for fit, cleanliness, and signs of damage, abuse and wear. This may be accomplished as part of annual firearms training.

**D. Care, Maintenance and Replacement of Body Armor:**

1. Officers shall routinely inspect personal body armor for signs of damage and for general cleanliness.
2. As dirt and perspiration may erode ballistic panels, each officer shall be responsible for cleaning personal body armor in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
3. Officer are responsible for the proper storage, maintenance and care of body armor in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
4. Officers are responsible for reporting damage or excessive wear to the ballistic panels or cover to their immediate supervisor and training division.
5. Body armor will be replaced in accordance with guidelines and protocols established by the National Institute of Justice.

**V. REFERENCES AND REVISIONS**

**A. REFERENCES**

- i. ERPD POLICY

**B. REVISIONS**

- i. 03/10/2025 – ERPSB Approval Date