

## Body Armor

### 1023.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Practical safety measures should be used to reduce the risks and hazards associated with police work. The Office provides soft body armor for personnel in an effort to improve safety.

### 1023.2 BODY ARMOR

Soft body armor vests are issued to all sworn personnel because they have been shown to be effective in reducing deaths and serious injuries. All personnel engaged in law enforcement duties while wearing the Office uniform, including off duty employment, will wear the soft body armor issued by this Office. Body Armor is on a 5-year rotation cycle. It is the employee's responsibility to notify the Quartermaster when expiration occurs in accordance with the manufacturer's date located on the ballistic panel.

#### 1023.2.1 USE OF SOFT BODY ARMOR

When deputies are assigned to a SWAT operation, stakeouts, service of arrest and / or search warrant(s), or, are serving a search warrant at a location where there is reason to believe a felony suspect may be present, the wearing of a body armor is mandatory. Body Armor must also be used when making planned investigative contacts with individuals known to have a propensity for violence or have a history of being armed and considered dangerous.

Body armor must be either office-issued or office-approved.

A stakeout, for purposes of this section, is a pre-planned event where time and practicality allow deputies to put on body armor in anticipation of encountering armed or dangerous suspects or circumstances.

Personnel engaged in undercover investigations shall have discretion in wearing or not wearing soft body armor for those undercover situations where its deployment would jeopardize either the operation or the undercover identity of those personnel.