

**East Lansing Police Department
Policy & Procedure**

Subject: Soft Body Armor	ELPD Policy #: 100-11
Effective Date: March 1, 2022 Revised Date:	Distribution: Departmental
MACP Accreditation Standard : Use and Availability of Body Armor	MACP Standard: 1.6.2

I. PURPOSE

This policy establishes the rules and procedures for issuing, wearing and maintaining department-issued soft body armor.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the East Lansing Police Department to maximize officer safety through the use of body armor. Except as defined within this policy, sworn employees are required to wear their issued body armor while on duty.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. All sworn personnel will be issued soft body armor of a configuration, threat level and type determined by the department. All sworn personnel will be issued an Exterior Vest Carrier (EVC).
- B. On-duty sworn personnel shall wear their department issued soft body armor while they are in uniform and assigned to patrol, court or other field/enforcement activities.
- C. Personnel assigned to training that does not involve patrol or enforcement functions may elect to not wear their issued body armor. Personnel shall wear their issued body armor when taking part in department range training. Personnel participating in Special Response Team tactical training shall wear their issued body armor unless the nature of the training dictates otherwise.
- D. Personnel are not required to wear their body armor when they are functioning primarily in an administrative or support capacity and would not reasonably be expected to take enforcement action. Personnel shall have body armor readily accessible so it can be worn in emergencies or other situations that necessitate the use of body armor.
- E. Personnel participating in planned raids, enforcement actions or arrest situations involving felony or potentially violent suspects will wear body armor provided by the department.

F. External Vest Carriers (EVC)

1. Use of EVC

- a. The EVC shall be utilized by all assigned and working in any patrol capacity. The vest shall be worn while on duty.
- b. The EVC shall be maintained for cleanliness and functionality daily.
- c. The EVC may be utilized by those in special assignments if performing duties where the use of the EVC is advantageous.
- d. The EVC shall be worn over the issued Class B uniform. The EVC may be worn over or under a departmental issued coat/outer layer. If the employee chooses to wear an outer layer over the EVC, the officer's body worn camera shall be moved and affixed to the outer layer in a like fashion with the appropriate mounting device.
- e. The EVC may be worn for informal court appearances, community functions and other events approved by the East Lansing Police Department. The EVC may not be worn as part of the Class A uniform. For occasions requiring the Class A uniform, the traditional vest shall be worn.

2. Setup of EVC

- a. The EVC may only have specific items attached to it. They are to be aligned as follows:
 - i. The Body Worn Camera shall be worn at the center line, near the chest and abdomen (base of sternum) meeting point of the employee.
 - ii. Handcuff pouch (provided)
 - iii. Radio pouch (provided)
 - iv. Tourniquet in an approved pouch
- b. The employee shall have their issued Velcro name tag and issued metal badge attached to the EVC while being worn.

- c. Employees may choose not to utilize the pouches on the EVC and keep their gear on their duty belt. The employee must wear their Body Worn Camera on their EVC.
- d. No patches or other items may be attached to the EVC at any time other than those provided by the East Lansing Police Department.

G. Care, Maintenance and Replacement

1. The required care and maintenance of soft body armor is subject to the following:
 - a. Personnel are responsible for inspecting their body armor for signs of damage, wear and cleanliness at the start of each shift.
 - b. Unserviceable body armor shall immediately be reported to the on-duty supervisor.
2. Members are responsible for the proper storage of their body armor.
 - a. Body armor should not be stored for an extended period of time where environmental conditions (e.g. temperature, light and humidity) could potentially degrade its effectiveness.
3. Personnel are responsible for the care and cleaning of their body armor and EVC pursuant to the manufacturer's care instructions.
 - a. Body armor should not be exposed to any cleaning agents or methods not specifically recommended by the manufacturer.
 - b. Failure to follow the manufacturer's care instructions may damage the ballistic performance capabilities of the body armor. If care instructions for the body armor cannot be located, the manufacturer should be contacted to request the instructions.
4. The East Lansing Police Department Use of Force staff will maintain a schedule of replacement for soft body armor.
5. Body armor should be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended replacement schedule, or when its effectiveness or functionality has been compromised.

IV. CANCELLATIONS

Authorized By:


Kim Johnson, Chief of Police