



# MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## STANDARD OPERATING INSTRUCTION

### FEDERALLY CONTROLLED EQUIPMENT

**ISSUED:** March 26, 2026

**EFFECTIVE:** March 26, 2026

**REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:**

Assistant Chief Craig Sarnow

**DATE:** February 16, 2026

**ACTION:** Amends SOI (January 19, 2024)

**WILEAG STANDARD(S):** NONE

### ROLL CALL VERSION

Contains only changes to current SOI.

For complete version of SOI, see SharePoint.

### III. DEFINITIONS

#### B. UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM, DRONE, UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE

Unmanned aircraft system, drone and unmanned aerial vehicle all have the meaning given to the term “unmanned aircraft system” in 49 U.S.C. § 44801(12) “an unmanned aircraft and associated elements (including communication links and the components that control the unmanned aircraft) that are required for the operator to operate safely and efficiently in the national airspace system.”

#### CB. FEDERALLY CONTROLLED EQUIPMENT

Any equipment acquired from the federal government through excess equipment transfers, federally provided funds, asset forfeiture programs, and property defined as “controlled property” or “controlled equipment” in federal statutes, regulations, or federal grant award conditions. This includes equipment acquired from the Department of Defense, Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, Department of the Treasury, and Office of National Drug Control Policy. The allowed and prohibited controlled equipment that can be acquired is defined by each federal government agency, and the Milwaukee Police Department shall adhere to these standards.

#### DC. SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT

#### EG. TACTICAL VEHICLES

### IV. APPLICATION AND USE OF FEDERALLY CONTROLLED EQUIPMENT

B. The department shall only use OJP grant funds to purchase controlled equipment allowed by the OJP and shall not use grant funds to purchase equipment listed as prohibited by the OJP. The department shall obtain approval by resolution from the City of Milwaukee Common Council prior to attempting to procure any weapons, ammunition, explosives, or pyrotechnics. Specialized firearms, ammunition, explosives, or pyrotechnics shall not be

acquired with the intention to be used for crowd management purposes after the equipment is acquired. ~~Controlled equipment that can be purchased using OJP grant funds include:~~

- ~~1. Command and/or Control Vehicles.~~
- ~~2. Tactical Vehicles.~~
- ~~3. Manned aircraft, fixed, and/or rotary wing.~~
- ~~4. Specialized firearms and ammunition under .50 caliber. This excludes service-issued handguns, rifles, or shotguns that are issued or approved by the department to be used during the course of regularly assigned duties.~~
- ~~5. Explosives and pyrotechnics.~~

~~**Note: The department shall obtain approval by resolution from the City of Milwaukee Common Council prior to attempting to procure any weapons, ammunition, explosives, or pyrotechnics as listed in subsection 4 and 5. The items listed in subsection 4 and 5 shall not be acquired with the intention to be used for crowd management purposes after the equipment is acquired.**~~

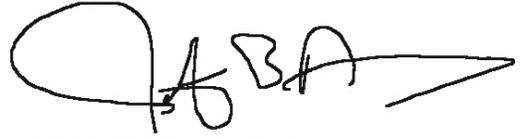
~~C. Upon receipt of grant funds, the department shall not obligate, expend, or draw down funds for items on the controlled equipment list without prior written post-award approval from the respective federal agency. The department shall provide all required certifications and assurances to OJP and receive approval from BJA before using funds for certain controlled equipment, including unmanned aircraft systems. The department cannot use asset forfeiture program funds to purchase, operate, or repair a drone that is manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign entity.~~

## **IX. AUDITING AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF FEDERALLY CONTROLLED EQUIPMENT**

### **F. TRANSFER / SALE OF AWARD FUNDED CONTROLLED EQUIPMENT**

1. The Milwaukee Police Department may transfer or sell any controlled equipment acquired to another law enforcement agency. Prior to finalizing any transfer or sales agreement, the Milwaukee Police Department must inform and obtain approval from the Federal agency that supplied the controlled equipment/funds. The acquiring law enforcement agency must submit the same information that was required of the Milwaukee Police Department to, and receive approval from, the Federal agency.
2. The department may ~~shall not~~ transfer or sell ~~only the following types of controlled equipment to non-law enforcement agencies: fixed wing aircraft; rotary wing aircraft; command and control vehicles; and tactical vehicles. All law enforcement-related and other sensitive or potentially dangerous components, and all law enforcement insignias and identifying markings, must be removed prior to transfer or sale. The department must inform and receive approval from the Federal agency from which the controlled equipment or funding to purchase the equipment was acquired prior to the~~

finalization of any transfer or sale.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JBN' with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

JEFFREY B. NORMAN  
CHIEF OF POLICE

JBN:mfk