

JACKSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Number: 20.0

October 2019

MOUNTED PATROL

The Jackson Police Department utilizes horse-mounted officers to provide effective methods of patrol, crowd control, and traffic enforcement, to prevent crime; to improve public relations; and to build community partnerships.

20.1 SELECTION PROCESS

- A. Selection Process for Sworn Officers
 1. Officers shall have completed a minimum of one year of solo patrol service with the Department prior to applying.
 2. Officers must possess good work habits, be resourceful and dependable.
 3. Officers must have the ability to keep or manage a horse and care for it.
 4. Officers must be able to provide for transportation of the horse to and from assignments. This transportation can be arranged using Department owned equipment, if such equipment is available and in safe working condition.
 5. No officer shall be assigned to the Mounted Unit without the recommendation of the Mounted Training Officer and the consent of the Chief of Police.
- B. Mounted Training Officer
 1. The Training Officer of the Mounted Unit is a voluntary position and shall be appointed by the Chief of Police.
 2. The Training Officer must possess knowledge of training horses and riders and must be able to evaluate and decide if mounts and riders are safe to be in the environment of a specific assignment.
 3. The Training Officer for the Mounted Unit must successfully complete a mounted officer training course and maintain certification as an instructor as deemed appropriate by the Chief of Police.
- C. Civilian Personnel
 1. Civilian volunteers are permitted to augment the sworn mounted patrol unit.
 2. All civilian volunteers work under the direction of the Mounted Training Officer or his designee and must complete Department training prior to being utilized.
 3. All civilian volunteers must sign a release of liability to the Town of Jackson for the actions of their horse while on duty or in training, holding the Town harmless for any injury to themselves or their horse.
- D. Horses
 1. Selection of horses used in Mounted Patrol will be the responsibility of the Mounted Training Officer.

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2. Before being allowed to work, a mount must pass the performance test as designed by the department.
3. The horse must have a negative Coggins test certificate.
4. The horse must be “good in flesh” as determined by the Mounted Training Officer.
5. The Mounted Training Officer shall maintain records showing Coggins test results and performance on annual tests for certification for each mount used in the mounted units.
6. The horse must prove to be gentle and even-tempered and must not show any negative habits such as kicking or biting.

20.2 MOUNTED UNIT ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Process
 1. Prior to starting patrol, the mount is to be groomed, with appropriate tack.
 2. Mounted assignments are made by the Mounted Training Officer or the supervisor of a special event. Officers must advise dispatch of where they are working and listen for radio traffic in that area.
 3. Officers are responsible for removing any manure that their mount may deposit on any sidewalk or crosswalk.
 4. If a truck and trailer are used to transport to the patrol area, the vehicle is to be positioned to provide maximum safety while loading and unloading the mounts and to minimize traffic obstructions.
 5. If an assignment will be occurring after dark, the officer should make every effort to equip his/her mount with reflective gear.
 6. If the mount must be left unattended, it shall be secured in a place and manner in which the animal cannot be injured or cause injury to innocent civilians. It is preferable to leave the animal either at a trailer or tied at a secure location.
 7. When necessary to dismount and enter a building, a mounted officer should attempt to secure his horse properly prior to entry. If that is not feasible due to the situation, the mounted officer may request assistance from a citizen to hold the horse. Great care should be taken to select an appropriate person.
 8. Due to liability concerns, no person who is not a member of the Mounted Unit (sworn or citizen) shall be allowed to ride the officer’s mount while in service for the Department.

20.3 HORSE CARE AND MAINTENANCE

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- A. Horses shall be maintained by their owners in a state that they can be readily used and can be considered “good in flesh”.
- B. Horses assigned to work the street on a regular basis should be shod with borium¹ spots or borium nails (rubber boots are acceptable).
- C. In the event of inclement weather, the on-duty Supervisor will make the decision as to whether the horses will be utilized. Common sense and the best interest of the horse should prevail. If mounts are used, they should be kept under cover while storms pass through and then placed back into service.
- D. In the event a horse is injured or killed on duty, the rider will notify the Mounted Training Officer or Event Supervisor immediately. If a veterinarian is obviously needed, the veterinarian shall be summoned first. If a rider is injured and cannot take control of the situation, the nearest mounted officer or member of the unit should respond and assume responsibility of the horse.
 - 1. On-duty horse injuries or death shall be documented in the form of a Department memo written to the Chief of Police, through the Mounted Training Officer.
 - 2. On-duty horse injuries will be evaluated by the Department to consider reasonable expenses to be reimbursed to the officer on a case by case basis.
- E. As the budget allows, the department will lease from sworn officers their personal mounts when selected for mounted service. In order to be eligible for a lease, the officer must make a reasonable effort to ride on duty at least two times per month during the months of May through September.
- F. Each horse will be Coggins tested and vaccinated annually. A positive Coggins test will disqualify any horse from further service in the unit.

20.4 MOUNTED UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

- A. The sworn mounted officer uniform is dark blue jeans and regular uniform shirt and leather gear. In addition, a western hat, boots, and spurs are also required. Mounted officers may wear the crossed sabers emblem above their nametag as part of their duty uniform, while working a mounted patrol assignment.
- B. The civilian mounted volunteer uniform is dark blue jeans, a white shirt, and a white straw western hat provided by the department.
- C. Department approved equine helmets may at any time be used in place of the western hat portion of the uniform.

¹ Borium is a generic name for tungsten carbide granules embedded in a matrix of softer metal

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20.5 RECOGNIZED USES OF MOUNTED PATROL

- A. Mounted units are to be used to supplement regular patrol, as staffing permits. A special focus should be placed upon patrolling the Town Square and other areas with high pedestrian activity.
- B. Mounted units should be considered for areas with limited access or mobility, such as alley and pathways. Horse mounted officers are particularly effective in crowd control, whether the crowd is violent or not violent, and can be used for observation or issuing directions to the crowd. When moving a crowd, horses should be deployed in tactical formations and should be a lead element when used in conjunction with foot officers.
- C. Mounted officers may be used for a variety of special events. These may include, but are not limited to school and daycare visits, parades, dignitary escorts, concerts, and public celebrations. All requests by special event organizers for mounted officers or civilian volunteers should be directed to the Mounted Training Officer.

20.6 TRAINING

- A. The Mounted Unit has at its disposal two Department owned horse trailers.
 - 1. Horse trailers may be used for transporting mounted unit horses to and from training and mounted patrol assignments.
 - 2. Officers who have a Chevrolet Tahoe or equivalent may use this vehicle to tow either horse trailer, so long as the Gross Vehicle Weight Requirement (GVWR) of the tow vehicle is not exceeded and the training and experience of the officer includes the ability to drive a combination unit safely with due regard for the public.
- B. Mounted Officers who are transporting a horse to and from a mounted unit assignment, to include training, may utilize their Personally Assigned Vehicle (PAV) to do so outside of the PAV restriction. The radius limit of the location of the horse shall not exceed 50 miles from the Town of Jackson city limits.
- C. Mounted officers may use personal horse trailers attached to JPD vehicles to transport horses to and from mounted assignments.
- D. Mounted officers may use personal vehicles attached to JPD Horse trailers to transport horses to and from mounted assignments.
- E. Departmental assets should not be left outside of the normal PAV area unless specifically authorized by the Mounted Training Officer.