



GREENVILLE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO - 201

GENERAL ORDERS

SHERIFF'S OFFICE VEHICLES

PURPOSE:

Sheriff's Office vehicles are used for purposes as described.

VEHICLE USE:

Anyone driving a Sheriff's Office vehicle during off-duty hours is expected to be in service and ready to respond to any call. Deputies may use their issued vehicles outside of normal duties after they have submitted a request form to their Division Commander and received approval.

If a deputy is absent from duty for any reason for a period of more than three consecutive days, their vehicle is to be made available for operational use by other Sheriff's Office personnel. Division Commanders determine temporary use and assignment of vehicles.

**VEHICLE OPERATION
AND UPKEEP:**

No item that could be used as a weapon will be left loose or unsecured in a Sheriff's Office vehicle. Traffic laws and speed limits are to be observed at all times, except when responding to emergency calls; see General Order 202 Emergency Vehicle Operations. Drivers and passengers are to wear seatbelts.

All employees are expected to drive with care and to avoid abusive driving habits. Employees are prohibited from text messaging on any electronic communication device while operating a County-owned vehicle. Drivers are expected to use good judgment if talking on an electronic communication device while operating a County owned vehicle. Smoking in vehicles is prohibited.

As a safety precaution, Sheriff's Office vehicles operate with headlights activated at all times. The only exceptions will be vehicles operated in an undercover capacity or situations where the use of lights is impractical, as in a covert approach to a possible crime-in-progress.

All deputies are to take pride in the upkeep of their respective vehicles. Accordingly, vehicles will be kept clean and properly maintained at all times

**MOBILE DATA
TERMINAL (MDT)
OPERATION/TEXTING
WHILE DRIVING:**

Personnel driving Sheriff's Office vehicles are prohibited from operating MDTs or texting when vehicles are in motion.

**OUT OF TOWN
VEHICLE FUEL
PURCHASE:**

For official business, out-of-county vehicle use, the Sheriff's Office has several fuel credit cards available for check-out through the Administrative Services Division. County vehicles are to be filled with regular unleaded gas only. Any vehicle requiring a higher octane gasoline will require supervisory review and authorization for a higher octane fuel purchase.

Credit card receipts for out of town fuel purchases are to be submitted with the respective credit card to the Administrative Services Division. Each receipt is to include the county vehicle control number.

BICYCLES:

Patrol bicycles will be used for special purpose patrols on the Swamp Rabbit Trail and other areas as approved. Personnel assigned a patrol bicycle will be required to wear special purpose uniform and all issued safety equipment anytime they are operating the bicycle. Deputies selected for special purpose patrols will be required to complete an approved training course on the operation of a patrol bicycle. The deputy who is issued a patrol bicycle will be responsible for any care and maintenance needs of the patrol bicycle and will take the bicycle only to an approved shop for service.

The following equipment will be assigned to and required to be carried on the patrol bicycle:

- Water Bottle
- First Aid Kit
- Crime Scene Tape
- Reflective Traffic Vest

The patrol bicycle will not be used for personal or off-duty use or for use during secondary employment.

MOTORCYCLES:

Sheriff's Office motorcycles will be used to patrol the Swamp Rabbit Trail and other uses as approved. Personnel assigned to a motorcycle will be required to wear the issued special purpose uniform and all issued safety equipment anytime they are operating the motorcycle. Deputies selected for motorcycle patrols will be required to have a current motorcycle license and complete an approved training course on the operation of a motorcycle.

The deputy issued the motorcycle will be responsible for any care or maintenance needs of the motorcycle and will take the motorcycle to an approved service center for service.

The motorcycle will not be used for personal or off duty use. Use of the motorcycle for secondary employment must be approved by a supervisor.

The following equipment will be assigned to and required to be carried on the motorcycle:

- Blue lights and siren.
- First aid kit with emergency blanket.
- PPE Kit with Hand Sanitizer.
- Fire extinguisher.
- Crime scene tape.
- Reflective Traffic Vest.

No employee while operating a motorcycle may engage or participate in a vehicle pursuit. Any employee operating a motorcycle will not respond signal one except in exigent circumstances and must have prior supervisor approval when possible. Deputies operating motorcycles are charged with understanding that there is increased liability and a greater potential for severe injury or death if a motorcycle is involved in a collision. Deputies operating motorcycles must use more caution when responding in traffic than when operating other types of patrol vehicles.

**VEHICLE
QUALIFICATIONS:**

All Sheriff's Office employees who operate county vehicles will qualify semi-annually at the Center for Advanced Training (CAT). Sworn personnel will qualify during in-service and night qualifications. Non-sworn personnel will qualify once during the day and once at night at a time to be determined by the training center staff.

**PENALTIES FOR
FAILURE TO
QUALIFY WITH
VEHICLE:**

All disciplinary actions for failing to qualify or demonstrate proficiency with a vehicle will originate at CAT.

FAIL / PASS - If an employee has a fail/pass score, their supervisor (lieutenant and above) will be notified in written form from the Center for Advanced Training (CAT). This notification will be in the form of a counseling report completed by training center personnel.

FAIL / FAIL - If an employee has a fail/fail score, their vehicle will be secured and the employee's supervisor (lieutenant and above) will be notified in written form and verbally from the Center for Advanced Training (CAT). The written notification will be in the form of a written reprimand completed by training center personnel. This will

allow supervisors to escort the employee home as well as address fail/fail situations.

The written notification from the training center will serve as a written reprimand and the employee will be placed on administrative duty. Arrangements will be made for remedial training with training center personnel.

Remedial training will consist of instruction deemed appropriate by the staff of the training center.

All remedial training will be conducted at the Center for Advanced Training under the supervision of a Sheriff's Office driving instructor.

THIRD QUALIFICATION ATTEMPT - After remedial training, an employee will be given a third chance to qualify. If he or she passes, no further action will be required. If the employee fails, he or she will be suspended without pay for 8 hours, encouraged to practice their driving skills, and placed on administrative duty.

FOURTH ATTEMPT AT QUALIFICATION - If an employee passes on the fourth attempt, no further action will be required. If he or she fails, the employee will be suspended from duty without pay for 40 hours, encouraged to practice their driving skills, and will return to work on administrative duty. The employee will be required to make arrangements to re-qualify within 10 days after return from suspension; failure to comply will result in termination.

FIFTH ATTEMPT AT QUALIFICATION - If an employee passes on the fifth attempt, no further action will be required. If he or she fails, the employee will be subject to more severe disciplinary action or termination at the Sheriff's discretion.

Additional Qualification Stipulations:

1. **Two fail/pass** incidents within a 12 month period: an employee will be subject to a written reprimand.
2. **Three fail/pass incidents** within a 24 month period: an employee will be subject to 8 hours suspension.
3. **Four consecutive fail/pass** incidents, an employee will be subject to suspension or termination at the Sheriff's discretion.
4. **Two fail/fail** incidents within a 12 month period: an employee will be subject to 8 hours suspension.
5. **Three fail/fail** incidents within a 24 month period: the employee will be subject to suspension or termination at the Sheriff's discretion.

FAILURE TO ATTEND QUALIFICATION - If a deputy/civilian fails to attend mandatory driving training, the Center for Advanced Training will notify their supervisor in writing. The deputy's/civilian supervisor will schedule a time with CAT personnel for the deputy/civilian to complete the missed qualification.

Any Deputy/civilian failing to attend qualification without proper authorization by their supervisor will result in a written reprimand for first offense. Second and subsequent offenses will result in suspension without pay.



Hobart Lewis, Sheriff