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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Lathrop Police Department Releases Draft Procedure for Use of "Military Equipment" in Compliance with Assembly Bill (AB) 481 Per New State Requirements for All Law Enforcement Agencies

Lathrop, CA, April 15, 2022 – The City of Lathrop is currently transitioning into its own Police Department, with a commission start date of July 1, 2022. Today, the City of Lathrop launched a [webpage](#) dedicated to providing information on the new Military Equipment Funding, Acquisition and Use Policy for the new Lathrop Police Department, in compliance with Assembly Bill (AB) 481.

On September 30, 2021, Governor Newsom signed [seven major peace officer reform bills](#) into law, including Assembly Bill 481. AB 481 was authored by Assemblymember David Chieu (D-San Francisco) to address the funding, acquisition, and use of items lawmakers deemed to be considered "military equipment."

Effective January 1, 2022, Assembly Bill (AB) 481 requires law enforcement agencies to obtain approval of the applicable governing body (Mayor and City Council), by adoption of a military equipment use policy prior to taking certain actions relating to the funding, acquisition, or use of military equipment, as defined below. The full text of AB 481 is available here: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB481

To comply with new state requirements for all California law enforcement agencies, the new Lathrop Police Department has prepared and released today a draft procedure for the funding, acquisition, and use of designated "military equipment," along with a draft list of equipment to be used in the new Lathrop Police Department in accordance with AB 481. The public is invited to a community engagement / public hearing on May 16, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. during the Special Meeting of the Lathrop City Council to provide public comment and or ask questions related to the matter.