

Department-Owned and Personal Property

700.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Department employees are expected to properly care for department property assigned or entrusted to them. Employees may also suffer occasional loss or damage to personal or department property while performing their assigned duties. Certain procedures are required depending on the loss and ownership of the item.

700.2 DOCUMENTATION OF ISSUED PROPERTY

All property issued shall be documented by the Department quartermaster in the department's inventory control system. Upon an employee's separation from the Department, the quartermaster shall provide a list and confirm all issued equipment is returned and document the status in the department's inventory control system..

At least annually an inspection of all property issued by the department shall be completed and submitted to the quartermaster. The annual inspections shall be submitted to the Office of the Chief for inclusion in the employee's personnel file.

700.2.1 CARE OF DEPARTMENT PROPERTY

Employees shall be responsible for the safekeeping, serviceable condition, proper care, use and replacement of department property assigned or entrusted to them. An employee's intentional or negligent abuse or misuse of department property may lead to discipline including, but not limited to, the cost of repair or replacement.

- (a) Employees shall promptly report through the chain of command, any loss, damage to or unserviceable condition of any department-issued property or equipment assigned for their use.
 1. A supervisor receiving such a report shall direct the employee to file a department memorandum outlining the incident, conduct an appropriate investigation and direct a memo to the appropriate division commander that shall include the result of his/her investigation and whether the employee followed proper procedures. The supervisor's report shall address whether reasonable care was taken to prevent the loss, damage or unserviceable condition.
 2. A review by the division commander to determine whether misconduct or negligence was involved should be completed.
- (b) The use of damaged or unserviceable department property should be discontinued as soon as practicable and, if appropriate, replaced with comparable department property as soon as available and following notice to a supervisor.
- (c) Except when otherwise directed by a supervisor or required by exigent circumstances, department property shall only be used by those to whom it was assigned. Use should be limited to official purposes and in the capacity for which it was designed.
- (d) Department property shall not be thrown away, sold, traded, donated, destroyed or otherwise disposed of without proper authority.

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- (e) In the event that any department property becomes damaged or unserviceable, no employee shall attempt to repair the property without prior approval of a supervisor.

700.3 USE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

The carrying of personal equipment on-duty or its use in the performance of duties requires written approval by the Chief of Police or designee. The employee shall submit a personal property inventory form for approval. The employee shall provide descriptions of personal property that the employee has requested to carry and the reason for its use. Personal property of the type routinely carried by persons not performing law enforcement duties, and that is not a weapon, is excluded from this requirement. The personal property inventory form shall be documented in the Department's inventory control system. The personal property inventory form should be reviewed during the annual inspection of department issued equipment.

700.3.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Personal property - Items or equipment owned by, provided by or purchased totally at the expense of the employee. This definition includes optional equipment items identified in the uniform regulations or other department policies. The exception is optional badges identified in 1026.2.3

Department Property - Items or equipment owned by, provided by or purchased by the department. Additional badges purchase by members are the property of the department.

700.3.2 FILING CLAIMS FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY

Claims for reimbursement for damage or loss of personal property must be made on a department memorandum, which should be submitted to the employee's immediate supervisor.

The supervisor receiving such a report shall make an appropriate investigation and direct a memo to the appropriate division commander that shall include the result of his/her investigation and whether reasonable care was taken to prevent the loss, damage or unserviceable condition.

Upon review by the division commander and a finding that no misconduct or negligence was involved, repair or replacement may be recommended to the Chief of Police.

The Department will not replace or repair costly items (e.g., jewelry, exotic equipment) that are not reasonably required as a part of an employees essential job functions. Claims for loss or damaged property may not exceed 50% of value.

700.3.3 REPORTING REQUIREMENT

A verbal report shall be made to the employee's immediate supervisor as soon as circumstances permit.

A written report shall be submitted before the employee goes off-duty or within the time frame directed by the supervisor to whom the verbal report is made.

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700.4 LOSS OR DAMAGE OF PROPERTY OF ANOTHER

Officers and other employees intentionally or unintentionally may cause damage to the real or personal property of another while performing their duties. Any employee who damages or causes to be damaged any real or personal property of another while performing any law enforcement function shall report it as provided below.

- (a) A verbal report shall be made to the employee's immediate supervisor as reasonably soon as circumstances permit.
- (b) A supervisor should respond to evaluate the incident and ensure photos are taken of the damage and any necessary investigation relative to the incident is documented.
- (c) A written report shall be submitted before the employee goes off-duty or within the time frame directed by the supervisor to whom the verbal report was made.
- (d) The report shall be forwarded to the division commander for review and then to the Office of the Chief for dissemination to the Risk Manager and City Attorney's Office.

700.4.1 DAMAGE BY PERSON OF ANOTHER AGENCY

If employees of another jurisdiction cause damage to personal property or property belonging to the City of Beloit, it shall be the responsibility of the employee present or the employee responsible for the property to make a verbal report to his/her immediate supervisor as reasonably soon as circumstances permit. The employee shall submit a written report before going off-duty or as otherwise directed by the supervisor.

These written reports, accompanied by the supervisor's written report, shall promptly be forwarded to the appropriate division commander.