

# JACKSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy: 8-8

Effective: 02-15-21

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## FIREARM-MOUNTED LIGHTS

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**PURPOSE:** Statistics show most law enforcement officer shootings occur in low-light conditions. The department recognizes the need to equip officers with tools that will enhance safety and enable them to perform their duties in the most effective means possible. Firearm-mounted lights enhance an officer's ability to identify threats in low-light conditions and enhance the officer's ability to respond in these conditions.

**POLICY:** The department has authorized firearm-mounted lights for rifles, shotguns, and handguns. Firearm mounted lights can be used by uniformed officers or any special assignment position that could expose the officer to low-light situations. Firearm-mounted lights are not intended to replace an officer's hand-held flashlight and use of the firearm-mounted light is limited to high-risk situations where an officer is justified in drawing and displaying his/her firearm.

### **PROCEDURES:**

- I. Officers must successfully complete a department-approved training course before they are authorized to carry a firearm-mounted light.
- II. Officers must qualify annually using their firearm-mounted light on an approved regular light qualification course. Officers with a firearm-mounted light attached to their handgun will also have to successfully complete a low light qualification course.
- III. The firearm-mounted light will be attached to the weapon at all times while on duty. Officers will not add or remove the flashlight from the weapon while on duty.
- IV. In the event that the firearm-mounted light fails due to mechanical failure of the bulb or batteries, the using officer is responsible to return the light to working order as soon as is reasonably possible.
- V. The only light authorized for use is the "white" light and emit 120 Lumens of light or more. Lighting systems that utilize laser dots or other colored lights are not authorized.
- VI. Weapon-mounted flashlights are not intended to replace the officer's handheld flashlight. A weapon-mounted light is a tool to be used as an aid during situations where the use of a firearm is warranted.
- VII. RIFLES
  - A. Lights mounted to rifles will be installed in a manner that does not obstruct the iron sights on the firearm or an optic accessory.
  - B. Lights will be mounted utilizing a side-by-side rail mount.
  - C. Officers who have been authorized to carry their personally owned rifle while on duty will be allowed to attach a weapon-mounted light. Officers must submit the required forms for approval prior to attaching a weapon-mounted light to their weapon.

VIII. SHOTGUNS

- A. Officers who have been authorized to carry their personally owned shotgun while on duty will be allowed to attach a weapon-mounted light. Officers must submit the required forms for approval prior to attaching a weapon-mounted light to their weapon.

IX. HANDGUNS

- A. Firearm-mounted lights will only be attached to those handguns with the integral rail option on the frame.
- B. Handguns with firearm-mounted lights must be carried in a hard-frame holster molded for the specific weapon system carried. Holsters made solely of nylon are prohibited.
- C. The authorized firearm-mounted lights for the departmental handgun are to be lights equipped with a toggle type switch. No pressure pads are allowed.
- D. Firearm-mounted lights for the department issued handgun are considered optional equipment. As such, holsters, lights, and other related equipment may be purchased by the officer and must be the same holster.
- E. Once an officer is approved to carry the firearm-mounted light and holster for their issued handgun, it will be mandatory that it be installed on the weapon while on duty.



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Chief of Police