



MEMORANDUM

Austin Police Department

TO: Gail McCant, Director Police Oversight
FROM: Lisa Davis, Chief of Police
DATE: June 25, 2026
SUBJECT: Response to APO Policy Recommendation – GO801 Equipment and Uniform Regulations

On June 09, 2026 the Austin Police Oversight (APO) submitted a Policy Recommendation for 801 Equipment and Uniform Regulations.

Current policy:

Employees may only wear an authorized duty belt and accessories. Basket weave designs are not allowed. When practical, the accessories must be made of the same material as the belt itself. Arrangement of the approved items is optional with each officer unless a specific location is designated.

APO Policy Recommendation:

Employees may only wear an authorized duty belt and department-issued or approved accessories. Basket weave designs are not allowed. When practical, the accessories must be made of the same material as the belt itself. Arrangement of the approved items is optional with each officer unless a specific location is designated.

(....)

(c) The following list contains the authorized duty belt and department-issued or approved accessories:

(....)

After a complete and thorough review, The Austin Police Department does not recommend adding "department-issued or approved accessories" to the General Orders because the existing term "authorized" already encompasses items that have been permitted for use by the department. Replacing or supplementing "authorized" with "approved" may create ambiguity between ongoing authorization and case-by-case approval, potentially leading to inconsistent interpretation and enforcement. Retaining "authorized" preserves the broader authority-based standard already established in policy and avoids unnecessary redundancy.

Any officer may submit a request to have equipment authorized for use after it has been vetted and recommended by the Equipment Review Committee.

Any officer found to be in violation of this policy shall be addressed through their Chain of Command up to the Chief of Police and subject to appropriate corrective action in accordance with department policy.

