

Survey to Chief APOs

Issue: Sale of County Issued Firearms

Question (from Armstrong County):

Question to Counties that carry firearms, does your firearms policy allow officers to purchase department issued firearms in the event they are being replaced?

If so, would you mind sharing that part of your policy with me? We recently replaced our firearms and our PJ allowed the PO's who wished to purchase their firearm. The Commissioners are now questioning if this falls under County Code and the firearms should be put up for bid. Judge Panchik has asked me to check with other Probation Departments.

Adams County

Adams did exactly the same as Dauphin and Bucks last year and it worked out well for us.

Blair County

Blair has nothing in policy. We just replaced our firearms and did a trade in for the new ones. We worked it out that staff could buy from the company we traded them in to.

Bradford County

I am beginning this process now so thank you Regina for raising the question and thanks everyone for the feedback. It was helpful for me here in Bradford!

Bucks County

When we switched firearms, we legally transferred the old guns from our department to the vendor. We noted for the vendor who was purchasing which gun based on serial number, as most POs wanted to purchase their duty weapons. The vendor then worked with a local shop to handle it as a sale and transfer on their end. This effectively removed us from the process and seemed to be the cleanest way for us. We do not have anything written into our policy about this.

Carbon County

Carbon County has historically allowed officers to purchase their firearms but unfortunately there is nothing in Policy.

Columbia County

Columbia County did basically the same with the firearms replaced last year. We don't have anything in our policy as well.

Cumberland County

Cumberland doesn't have a policy. Typically, we trade our old firearms in and the employee deals directly with the dealer. Property no longer belongs to the county and the purchase is strictly between buyer and seller at that point not unlike any firearms transaction.

Dauphin County

Dauphin did exactly the same as Bucks.

Erie County

Erie County is same as Westmoreland and others. We do not have an official policy.

Indiana County

Indiana County does not permit an officer to purchase their duty-issued firearm when replacement occurs. Either the trade-in value of the old firearms would be applied toward the replacement cost or the weapons would be advertised for sale by the County through a sealed bid process.

Lehigh County

We have not allowed PO's to purchase firearms that were being replaced/upgraded. They are department issued and are considered county property.

Philadelphia

We don't permit officers to purchase firearms that are being replaced. Our process is trade our firearms in to the vendors we purchased them from and purchase new ones. An officer purchasing his own firearm does that outside of requisitions from the courts.

Pike County

Pike is the same as Blair.

Schuylkill County

Schuylkill County has allowed Officers to purchase their duty firearms when they are being replaced, however we do not have a policy in place.

Westmoreland County

Westmoreland County is like Cumberland. We trade our firearms in and the employee has the opportunity to purchase the firearm from the dealer.