JOPLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT	10-03 STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE
SUBJECT: Police Motorcycles	REVIEW DATE: Annually - October
EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2009	ACTION DATE:
AMENDS/SUPERSEDES: 11/09/2011	AMEND DATE: 04/20/2020
ACCREDITATION INDEX: 41.1.3 a, b, c, d	APPROVED: Richard A. Pearson Chief of Police

I. POLICY

It is the policy of this department to maintain police motorcycles. Police motorcycles will be assigned to the Uniformed Operations Bureau and should mainly be used for traffic enforcement duties and special events where mobility is needed in congested areas. This policy is to provide guidelines for the use, maintenance, and responsibility of police motorcycles during routine and emergency situations. (41.1.3 A)

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures governing the operation of police motorcycles.

III. PROCEDURES

Prior to being assigned to motorcycle duty, the officer shall possess at minimum a state issued motorcycle endorsement. If a member of the organization is assigned to a police motorcycle and does not have an endorsement, they must show they are proficient at basic operation of a motorcycle, or complete an authorized motorcycle safety course and obtain a "motorcycle qualified" status on his/her driver's license. (41.1.3 B)

A. To show proficiency on a motorcycle, the officer will be able to show they can handle basic operation of the motorcycle. The things that will be looked at are; balance while riding, starting from a stop, coming to a stop, and turning of the motorcycle. This is to serve as visual verification that the officer can ride a motorcycle and will then be sent to Police Motorcycle Operators Course to learn how to operate a police motorcycle.

B. No employee of the department or other person shall operate a department motorcycle without prior approval by the Chief of Police. (41.1.3 A)

C. The Chief of Police may authorize any sworn officer that has completed police motorcycle training and is state qualified to operate a police motorcycle. (41.1.3 B)

D. Officers assigned to motorcycle duty shall be fully responsible for ensuring the care and cleanliness of the department motorcycles. (41.1.3 C)

E. Officers assigned to motorcycle duty shall be fully responsible for ensuring the department motorcycles are maintained in the highest possible degree of mechanical proficiency. (41.1.3 C)

F. Modification to the motorcycles shall not be made without prior approval by the Chief of Police.

G. Officers assigned to motorcycle duty shall be primarily responsible for duties to include, but not limited to, the following: (41.1.3 A)

1. Enforcement of parking violations.
2. Enforcement of traffic law violations.
3. Escorts for convoys, funeral processions, and parades.

4. Accident investigation.
5. Traffic control where required.
6. All other duties assigned by the proper authority.

H. Police motorcycles shall not be operated during or under the following conditions: (41.1.3 A)

1. Temperature below 35 degrees F, unless approved by a supervisor.
2. During times of sustained heavy rainfall or anytime that the rider feels that it is unsafe to operate the motorcycle.
3. During snowfall.
4. When there is ice and/or snow on the road pavement.
5. When directed not to be operated by a supervisor.
6. When the operator is not physically fit.
7. When the operator deems the conditions are unsafe.
8. Outside the city limits of Joplin except at the direction or approval of the Chief of Police or his designee.

I. Assigned motorcycle operators are to adhere to the following:

1. Never override their ability.
2. Never override the mechanical ability of the motorcycle.
3. Never ride in a space that the operator cannot see their way clear to ride out of.
4. Constantly scan the roadway for grease, oil, sand, gravel, or other debris.
5. Never ride in excessive debris on the road.
6. Avoid riding in the center of the road lane where oil and grease deposits have been left by other motor vehicles.
7. The operator should always be aware of conditions and possible situations at least one block ahead of them.
8. Always follow vehicles a safe distance to the rear.
9. Be aware of the stopping distance required for the motorcycle at all speeds.
10. When passing vehicles that are stopped at signals or at other stops, always do so slowly and watch any movement in the vehicles.
11. Be alert for persons exiting parked motor vehicles and opening the car door into the lane of traffic.
12. Never pass between the curb and the curb traffic lane.
13. The operator should never change lanes without looking over his/her shoulder to see if the lane is clear for the lane change.
14. Avoid riding on or upon painted lane delineators.
15. Avoid over-breaking while leaning into a turn.
16. Never carry a passenger.
17. When responding to an emergency call, be sure the emergency lights are on and that you are fluctuating the siren.
18. Do not override the siren.
19. Never attempt to stop a violator from the right side of the vehicle.
20. When dismounting the motorcycle, be sure that the motorcycle is secure on the stand, center or side, before walking away.
21. There are times when it may be necessary to put the motorcycle on its side. I.e. foot pursuit dismounts, using the bike as cover. Caution should be used when the rider makes the decision to lay the motorcycle down.
22. The motorcycle shall not be propped against another vehicle or building when being parked.
23. When operating the motorcycle on an emergency response, the operator must exercise an extremely high degree of safety and must always be in absolute control of the vehicle.
24. When assuming control of the motorcycle to which you are assigned for duty, the operator will thoroughly inspect the vehicle for proper mechanical operation and cleanliness. If the operator accepts the motorcycle for duty, it is then the operator's responsibility to get it back to the established standards of mechanical operation and cleanliness before beginning patrol duties. (41.1.3 C)

J. Motorcycle operators are cautioned about involving themselves in a pursuit. See SOG 12-10 Vehicle Pursuits for guidelines of pursuit operation.

K. If it is necessary to operate the motorcycle on loose gravel, or other loose surface coats, the operator will do so with the highest degree of safety and the highest degree of care.

L. While performing duty on a motorcycle, the operator shall maintain constant radio communication with the communications officer.

M. Nearing the conclusion of the normal tour of duty, the officer operating the motorcycle shall inspect and service the vehicle to ensure it is clean and in good mechanical condition. (41.1.3 C)

N. Motorcycle Equipment (41.1.3 D)

1. Police motorcycles shall be equipped with emergency lights, and siren.
2. Gloves may be worn when operating the motorcycle.
3. An approved DOT and Snell certification, three-quarter (¾) style helmet will be worn when operating the motorcycle, keeping the chinstrap securely fastened at all times when riding or sitting on the motorcycle.
4. Shatterproof glasses, goggles, or helmet visor shall be utilized when riding the motorcycle.
5. While operating the motorcycle, the operator shall wear boots that go over and are higher than the ankle.
6. Any equipment problems with the motorcycle shall be reported immediately to the Motor Unit Supervisor on a vehicle maintenance form. The Motor Officer Assigned to the motorcycle with the mechanical problems will make the arrangements to have the motorcycle serviced after contacting the Motor Unit Supervisor.
7. Motorcycles shall be filled with fuel that meets manufacturer's recommendations.

O. Training

1. After successfully completing a Motor Officer School, members of the Motor Unit shall continue to improve and maintain their skills as Motor Officers

2. Between the months of March and November the members of the Motor Unit shall train at least one working day a month.

   a. Once a year all operators will be required to complete and pass the skills course that was introduced at the Operators School "recertification." The standards shall be the same as if they were a new student, with an 80% score of skills evaluations.
   b. If they fail to pass the skills testing, they will be suspended from operating a department motorcycle until they attend and complete a three-day refresher course. After completing the refresher course, the motor officer shall be required to pass the skills course before operating a department motorcycle.
   c. The training will be to help ensure the Motor Officers are operating the motorcycles safely.
   d. The training will focus on the skills that were learned at the Basic Motor Officer School.
   e. The training will also focus on skills such as escorts, parades and team riding skills.

IV. COMPLIANCE

Violations of this policy, or portions thereof, may result in disciplinary action as described in the City of Joplin's Personnel Rules or the Joplin Police Department's Rules and Regulations and General Orders. Members of the Joplin Police Department, while assigned to or assisting other agencies shall comply with this policy.

V. APPLICATION

This document constitutes department policy, is for internal use only, and does not enlarge an employee's civil or criminal liability in any way. It shall not be construed as the creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary

sense, with respect to third party claims insofar as the employee's legal duty as imposed by law. Violations of this policy, if proven, can only form a basis of a complaint by this department, and then only in a nonjudicial administrative setting.