A. Policy

The legal authority for Lakewood police agents to carry and use weapons in the performance of their duties is vested in state statute 18-1-707 CRS. Sections 4850 and 4851 of the Lakewood Police Department Police Manual defines policy and procedure for the carrying of weapons by sworn personnel.

B. Procedure

1. Department authorized handguns, carried on or off duty are purchased by individual agents. Rifles authorized for duty use are purchased by individual agents. Shotguns authorized for duty use may be issued by the department or purchased by individual agents.

2. Firearms authorized for on duty and off duty use shall be chambered for department - issued ammunition. Firearms must conform to the specifications for authorized firearms as outlined by the Chief of Police.

3. Due to the inherently dangerous and deadly nature of firearms, agents are tasked with the sole responsibility of the safe storage of all agency-authorized firearms, both on and off-duty. Gunlocks shall be available in the armory and issued for authorized weapons by a supervisor.

4. Holsters and ammunition carriers compatible with personal weapons shall not be issued. The responsibility for purchasing and maintaining personal equipment rests with the employee.

5. Personal equipment worn with the department uniform shall be compatible in appearance with department issued equipment and meet the guidelines promulgated by the Professional Standards Section.

6. Second weapons shall be kept concealed from public view when not in use.

C. Rule

1. Weapons shall not be carried on duty until the nonissue - weapon request form has been approved and forwarded to the Professional Standards Section.

2. Ammunition carried in a department - approved weapon shall be only that which has been approved by the Chief of Police.

3. Agents shall not surrender their weapons except as a last resort when they are convinced the act of giving up the weapon will save their life or the lives of other persons.

4. All loading and unloading of firearms inside the Police Department complex shall be accomplished by using the designated firearm
loading/unloading tubes located in the Patrol locker rooms and outside the northwest entrance to the Police Department. The use of the firearm loading/unloading tube does not in any way lessen previously established firearms safety requirements.

5. Firearms shall not be left overnight in vehicles that are not secured in a garage.

4851 PRIMARY HANDGUNS

B. Procedure

1. Lakewood police agents are authorized to carry semiautomatic pistols, or revolvers as their primary duty weapon. Prior to carrying a firearm, agents shall complete training on department rules and procedures, state laws regarding use of deadly force, and firearms mechanics and safety.

2. All firearms must meet or exceed the manufacturer’s minimum standards for safety and performance. Firearms must conform to the specifications for authorized firearms as outlined by the Chief of Police.

3. Agents shall carry only that ammunition authorized by the Chief of Police.

4. Agents shall permit the department armorer to inspect their weapons prior to obtaining authorization to carry the weapon.

5. Should a weapon fail to function properly at anytime, certification by a gunsmith as to weapon serviceability may be required prior to allowing the weapon to be carried on-duty.

6. Agents shall be required to demonstrate proficiency with the semi-automatic pistol or revolver.

7. Neither the City nor the department shall be under obligation to reimburse agents for any expenses incurred from mishandling or careless use of the weapon.

8. The department shall provide duty and range ammunition for this program.

C. Rule

1. Agents shall purchase at their own expense an approved semi-automatic pistol or revolver, additional magazines or speedloaders, and approved leather gear. All monetary costs except ammunition shall be borne by the employee.
2. Agents are authorized to carry the semi-automatic pistol or revolver after they have met the requirements of the training program for each weapon.

3. Agents shall demonstrate proficiency with the semiautomatic pistol or revolver before they are allowed to carry the weapon on-duty.

4. The weapon carried on-duty shall be listed as the primary handgun for tracking weapon proficiency.

4852 SECONDARY HANDGUNS

B. Procedure

1. A secondary handgun is an additional firearm an agent carries on duty, which is concealed on their person.

2. Agents may carry a secondary handgun, while on duty.

3. Uniformed agents must conceal the secondary firearm so it is not visible to the public.

4. An agent’s secondary firearm may be the same firearm as their off-duty firearm.

C. Rule

All secondary handguns carried on duty shall be registered by filing a non-issue weapon request form with the Professional Standards Section. The weapons shall meet the requirements promulgated by the Chief of Police.

4853 OFF-DUTY WEAPONS

A. Policy

Off-duty encounters can be dangerous. The best and safest response may be to serve as an excellent witness.

Off-duty agents may be forced by circumstances to respond as police agents under an emergency situation; therefore, it is recommended that off-duty agents have immediately accessible to them a department-approved firearm and handcuffs which will enable them to respond under such emergency situations.

B. Procedure

1. First, an off-duty agent should determine whether it is absolutely necessary that he become involved in an enforcement action while off-duty.
2. The off-duty agent should assess the situation carefully before committing himself to action. An off-duty agent should avoid involving himself in a confrontation that he cannot control.

3. If there is any means to do so, the off-duty agent should call for on-duty law enforcement help before he acts.

4. If the off-duty agent intervenes, it is advisable to have a plan of action in mind.

5. If the off-duty agent intervenes, he should clearly identify himself as a peace officer as soon as it is practical. Remember that victims and other peace officers could misidentify the off-duty agent as a criminal assailant.

6. An off-duty agent should make a tactical withdrawal from any off-duty confrontation that is beyond his control.

C. Rule

All handguns carried off duty shall be registered by filing a nonissue-weapon request form with the Professional Standards Section. The weapons shall meet the requirements promulgated by the Chief of Police.

4854 SHOTGUNS AND URBAN RIFLE

A. Policy

Based upon an analysis of current trends in law enforcement, there is an increasing awareness that police officers should be armed with weapons, which can provide a greater tactical advantage in a field shooting confrontation. The shotgun and police rifle offer greater firepower capabilities, providing greater protection for the officer. Agents are authorized to carry the .223 caliber rifle and police shotgun after they have met the requirements of the training program for each weapon. Supervisors shall inspect authorized weapons regularly to assure proper maintenance.

B. Procedure

1. The police urban rifle or shotgun may be used to assist agents who respond to an unplanned and spontaneous incident involving armed suspects. When suspects can be identified as wearing body armor, are armed or have immediate access to high-powered weapon(s) which surpasses the capability of the weapons normally carried by field personnel the deployment of the urban rifle or shotgun is appropriate. The urban rifle and shotgun may also be deployed during a high risk traffic stop where a perimeter rifle would provide a greater tactical advantage. During periods of civil unrest or riots the urban rifles/shotguns will be deployed only with supervisor approval.
The 12-gauge shotgun equipped with slug rounds may be used to destroy any animal that appears to be suffering from an apparent fatal wound or sickness or when the animal presents a danger of serious bodily injury or death to any person. Agents are urged to display caution when engaged in this type of action to ensure the proper backdrop is selected prior to destroying the animal.

2. The 12-gauge shotgun is an optional weapon issued by the department on a daily basis. Therefore, the Professional Standards Section shall ensure:
   a. That only those employees who choose to carry a shotgun on duty need qualify.
   b. That in order to carry a shotgun sworn members must demonstrate proficiency with the shotgun based on department guidelines quarterly.

3. Under no circumstances shall a loaded shotgun or urban rifle be allowed inside the City Hall complex unless under emergency tactical conditions. All routine loading and unloading procedures shall be accomplished outdoors in the designated loading and unloading area unless at the scene of a tactical situation.

4. The use of a shotgun and urban rifle under tactical conditions shall be at the discretion of the agent except in riot or civil unrest situations.

5. A live round shall be placed into the chamber of either weapon only when the agent has a clear indication that he or she may need to fire the weapon.

6. Prior to removing either the shotgun or the urban rifle from the scene of a tactical situation, the agent shall ensure that the weapons are operationally safe.

7. If at any time an agent determines a shotgun is defective or unsafe, the agent shall return the shotgun to the armory, tag the shotgun for repairs, and complete a handwritten memorandum to his immediate supervisor describing the malfunction of the weapon. The servicing and maintenance of the urban rifle shall be the agent’s responsibility.

8. Agents carrying a shotgun or urban rifle in a police vehicle shall ensure that the vehicle is securely locked when it is left unattended.

9. Should a weapon fail to function properly at anytime, certification by an LPD Armorer as to weapon serviceability may be required prior to allowing the weapon to be carried on-duty.

10. Agents participating in the rifle program shall be required to demonstrate proficiency with the rifle based on department guidelines quarterly.
C. Rule

1. Injecting rounds into the shotgun chamber and urban rifle as a psychological tactic is prohibited.

4855 WEAPONS INSPECTION

B. Procedure

1. Prior to carrying a semi-automatic handgun or revolver on or off duty or the police rifle on duty, the weapon shall be inspected by the range staff and deemed to be in a safe and operational condition.

2. Prior to carrying a weapon on or off duty, the agent shall qualify with the weapon through an official department-operated firearms qualification course.

3. The approved weapons authorization forms shall be maintained by the Professional Standards Section.

C. Rule

1. All primary handguns shall be inspected by a qualified armorer or gunsmith on a biennial basis.

2. Police employees who have been authorized to carry revolvers or semiautomatic pistols on duty are responsible for maintaining their weapons, magazines, and speedloaders in a clean and good operating condition.

4856 WEAPONS QUALIFICATION AND TRAINING

B. Procedure

1. The Professional Standards Section shall be responsible for coordinating the firearms training program, and shall be responsible for announcing in advance when training sessions are to occur. All firearms instructors will be certified and all instruction will be monitored by certified instructors.

2. The goals of the weapons proficiency and training program shall be to improve each shooter's skills and to give each agent the skills to recognize and survive a combat situation.

3. Based on the fact that the ability to accurately fire a handgun is a perishable skill, all sworn members below the rank of Division Chief are required to attend mandatory firearms training four times per year, including demonstrating proficiency with their primary duty weapon twice annually. Sworn personnel who carry shotguns or urban rifles must also attend mandatory firearms training with these weapons four
times per year, including demonstrating proficiency twice annually. Sworn personnel with the rank of Division Chief and above are required to demonstrate proficiency a minimum of once a year. Agents who fail to attend range shall be subject to disciplinary action.

4. Proficiency shall be determined by the agent achieving 80 percent accuracy with the handgun and 90 percent accuracy with the rifle. If an agent fails to attain the required accuracy level on any course of fire, he shall be given the opportunity to shoot up to 3 courses of fire. The agent who qualifies on the second or third course of fire shall be considered proficient.

5. If unable to demonstrate proficiency after three courses of fire, the agent shall be asked to leave the range. The range officer shall note that event and report it to the commander of the Professional Standards Section.

6. Agents who do not demonstrate proficiency quarterly due to their inability to shoot the handgun shall be designated as a "remedial shooter."

7. The commander of the Professional Standards Section shall be advised by the range staff the same day of the employee's inability to demonstrate proficiency and that the employee has been designated as a "remedial shooter."

8. A member of the range staff shall hold a special training session with the "remedial shooter" on the next possible working day. The "remedial shooter" shall be assigned to "desk duty" until he has demonstrated proficiency with his duty weapon.

9. If the "remedial shooter" fails to demonstrate proficiency after receiving 20 hours of remedial firearms training, he shall be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, termination for inability to maintain vital job performance standards. A memorandum shall be submitted to the Commander of the Professional Standards Section documenting the employee's inability to demonstrate proficiency, all training offered to the remedial shooter and a recommendation on his/her status as a "remedial shooter" based on the employee's demonstrated proficiency with his/her weapon.

10. Agents who do not demonstrate proficiency with the police rifle may not carry the weapon on-duty.

C. Rule

1. The primary weapons carried on - duty shall be used for qualification purposes.
2. Agents who carry secondary or off-duty weapons shall demonstrate proficiency with the weapon through an official, department operated, firearms qualifications course twice a year.

4857 AMMUNITION

B. Procedure

1. Only ammunition approved by the Chief of Police may be used in primary, secondary, off-duty and special purpose weapons authorized for carrying by sworn personnel.

2. Any sworn employee who has questions about whether or not a particular round is authorized should contact the Commander in charge of the Professional Standards Section for clarification.

3. The Chief of Police will issue the authorizing memorandum, as needed; to describe ammunition sworn personnel will carry.

C. Rule

1. Sworn personnel may carry only department-approved ammunition in primary, secondary, off-duty and special purpose weapons.

4858 LEATHER EQUIPMENT

B. Procedure

1. Agents who carry a revolver as their primary duty weapon shall purchase, at their own expense, a department-approved holster and ammunition carrier. This leather gear shall meet department standards then in effect.

2. Agents who carry a 9mm, .40 caliber or .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol as their primary duty weapon shall purchase, at their own expense, a department-approved holster and dual magazine carrier. This leather gear shall meet department standards then in effect.

3. Agents who are working on duty in plainclothes or carrying a back-up pistol while on duty shall adhere to the department guidelines concerning holsters.

4. All leather gear shall be approved by the Professional Standards Section.

C. Rule
1. Agents shall carry only those holsters and accessories, which conform to department standards promulgated by the commander of the Professional Standards Section.

4859 CONCEALED CARRY PERMITS FOR RETIRED LPD AGENTS

A. Policy

The safety of police agents is of great concern to the Lakewood Police Department, both during their employment and after. With the implementation of the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004 (Chapter 44 of Title 18 U.S.C. Section 926(c)) and S. 1132, the “Law Enforcement Officers’ Safety Act Improvements Act,” LPD is able to extend the right to carry a concealed weapon to its retired LPD agents.

B. Procedure

1. In order to be in compliance with the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004, retired agents must meet the following criteria:

   a. Retired agents must have separated from service in good standing from the Lakewood Police Department; and

   b. Prior to such separation, were authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of, or the incarceration of any person for, any violation of law, and had statutory powers of arrest; or

   c. Were employed as a law enforcement officer by the Lakewood Police Department or other jurisdiction for a total of 10 years or more and left in good standing; or

   d. Separated from service due to a service-connected disability, as determined by LPD, after completing a probationary period of service.

2. Retired LPD agents who wish to maintain a CCW permit must return to LPD once a year for a training session and firearms qualification with the LPD Range Staff at their own expense. Sessions will be made available at regular intervals and retired agents will be notified of the sessions via mail or electronic mail.

3. The Lakewood Police Department Professional Standards Section/Training Unit will check the criminal history and run the retired agent’s name through NCIC/CCIC to check for offenses that would void the agent’s ability to obtain a CCW permit on an annual basis prior to the renewal of the permit.

4. After completing yearly range qualification, retired agents will be issued a POST identification card, which will indicate the agent has qualified with their weapon and meets the standards set forth by LPD, the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004, the Law Enforcement Officer’s Safety Act of 2010, and the Colorado POST board.

C. Rule
1. Retired agents who meet the qualifications set forth by the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004, shall qualify with their weapon on a yearly basis to be issued a POST Retired Police Officer Certification Card. Retired agents living outside the state of Colorado will meet the requirements set forth by their home state.

2. The CCW permit does not supersede or limit the laws of any state that permit private persons or entities to prohibit or restrict the possession of concealed firearms on their property or prohibit or restrict the possession of firearms on any state or local government property installation, building, base or park.