INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR SPEWAK AND FIRE & POLICE BOARD MEMBERS

FROM: CHIEF OF POLICE KEN ANDRESKI, JR

SUBJECT: PD AGENDA ITEMS

DATE: 6/5/2023

Please add the following police department agenda items to the 6/12/2023, Fire & Police Board agenda:

1. Letters of Recognition presented to Detective Hendricks and Detective DeGregorio
2. Monthly Crime Report – NIBRS Ladue PD May 2023, Ladue PD Year to Date, and State of MO Year to Date 2023
3. Daily Police Uniform Change – Officer Freant and Officer Becszlko will be in person wearing proposed uniform

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Andreski, Jr
Chief of Police

LADUE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

This Certificate is hereby awarded to:

Detective Roland DeGregorio

In recognition of your outstanding investigative performance, professionalism and dedication during the investigation of an Attempted Car Jacking on February 15, 2022. While investigating the incident, Detectives obtained surveillance video and cell phone evidence leading to the identification of a suspect vehicle and apprehension of a suspect. Detectives DeGregorio and Hendricks were able to obtain a confession leading to two additional arrests. As a result of their investigation, the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office issued Attempted Robbery 1st Degree and Attempted Assault 1st Degree charges.

Ken Andreski, Jr.
Chief Of Police

LADUE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

This Certificate is hereby awarded to:

Detective Jennifer Hendricks

In recognition of your outstanding investigative performance, professionalism and dedication during the investigation of an Attempted Car Jacking on February 15, 2022. While investigating the incident, Detectives obtained surveillance video and cell phone evidence leading to the identification of a suspect vehicle and apprehension of a suspect. Detectives Hendricks and DeGregorio were able to obtain a confession leading to two additional arrests. As a result of their investigation, the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office issued Attempted Robbery 1st Degree and Attempted Assault 1st Degree charges.

Ken Andreski, Jr.
Chief Of Police

Ladue Police Department - MO0954400 - NIBRS Agency Crime Overview - May 2023

2022 Population Estimate	**8,948**
Offense Overview	
Offense Total	9
Number Cleared	0
Percent Cleared	0.00 %
Group A Crimes per 100,000 population	100.6
Arrest Overview	
Total Arrests	5
Adult Arrests	5
Juvenile Arrests	0
Unknown Age	0
Arrests per 100,000 population	55.9
Average number offenses/incident	1.00

Group B Arrests

Offense	Adult	Juvenile
Bad Checks	0	0
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy Violations	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	0	0
Driving Under the Influence	1	0
Drunkenness	0	0
Family Offenses (Nonviolent)	0	0
Liquor Law Violations	0	0
Peeping Tom	0	0
Trespass of Real Property	1	0
All Other Offenses	2	0
Total Group B	**4**	**0**

	Offenses (*)		Arrests (**)	
Group A Offenses	Reported	Cleared	Adult	Juvenile
Crimes Against Persons				
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping/Abduction	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0
Sodomy	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault With An Object	0	0	0	0
Fondling	0	0	0	0
Incest	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0	0
Simple Assault	1	0	0	0
Intimidation	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	0	0	0	0
Crimes Against Property				
Arson	0	0	0	0
Bribery	0	0	0	0
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	1	0	0	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	1	0	0	0
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	0	0	0	0
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0
Extortion/Blackmail	0	0	0	0
False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	0	0	0	0
Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud	0	0	0	0
Impersonation	0	0	0	0
Welfare Fraud	0	0	0	0
Wire Fraud	0	0	0	0
Identity Theft	0	0	0	0
Hacking/Computer Invasion	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0
Pocket-picking	0	0	0	0
Purse-snatching	0	0	0	0
Shoplifting	2	0	0	0
Theft From Building	1	0	0	0
Theft From Coin Operated Machine or Device	0	0	0	0
Theft From Motor Vehicle	0	0	0	0
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts/Accessories	0	0	0	0
All Other Larceny	1	0	1	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	0	0	0
Stolen Property Offenses	0	0	0	0
Crimes Against Society				
Drug/Narcotic Violations	0	0	0	0
Drug Equipment Violations	0	0	0	0
Betting/Wagering	0	0	0	0
Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gambling	0	0	0	0
Gambling Equipment Violations	0	0	0	0
Sports Tampering	0	0	0	0
Pornography/Obscene Material	1	0	0	0
Prostitution	0	0	0	0
Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	0	0	0	0
Purchasing Prostitution	0	0	0	0
Weapon Law Violations	0	0	0	0
Animal Cruelty	0	0	0	0
Total Group A Offenses	**9**	**0**	**1**	**0**

(*) Offenses are counted using the FBI Units of Count for Crime

(**) The 'Arrests' column shows arrests made during the selected period, regardless of incident date. Arrest counts may be higher than incident counts.

This report is valid as of June 02, 2023 and is subject to change

Ladue Police Department - MO0954400 - NIBRS Agency Crime Overview - YTD as of Jun 02, 2023

2022 Population Estimate	**8,948**
Offense Overview	
Offense Total	51
Number Cleared	17
Percent Cleared	33.33 %
Group A Crimes per 100,000 population	570.0
Arrest Overview	
Total Arrests	47
Adult Arrests	40
Juvenile Arrests	7
Unknown Age	0
Arrests per 100,000 population	525.3
Average number offenses/incident	1.13

Group B Arrests

Offense	Adult	Juvenile
Bad Checks	0	0
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy Violations	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	0	0
Driving Under the Influence	6	1
Drunkenness	0	0
Family Offenses (Nonviolent)	0	0
Liquor Law Violations	0	0
Peeping Tom	0	0
Trespass of Real Property	2	3
All Other Offenses	19	0
Total Group B	**27**	**4**

	Offenses (*)		Arrests (**)	
Group A Offenses	Reported	Cleared	Adult	Juvenile
Crimes Against Persons				
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping/Abduction	0	0	0	0
Rape	1	0	0	0
Sodomy	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault With An Object	0	0	0	0
Fondling	0	0	0	0
Incest	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	1	1	1	0
Simple Assault	3	1	0	1
Intimidation	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	0	0	0	0
Crimes Against Property				
Arson	0	0	0	0
Bribery	0	0	0	0
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	7	1	4	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	4	1	1	0
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	1	0	0	0
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0
Extortion/Blackmail	0	0	0	0
False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	2	1	0	0
Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud	0	0	0	0
Impersonation	0	0	0	0
Welfare Fraud	0	0	0	0
Wire Fraud	0	0	0	0
Identity Theft	1	0	0	0
Hacking/Computer Invasion	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0
Pocket-picking	0	0	0	0
Purse-snatching	0	0	0	0
Shoplifting	8	3	0	0
Theft From Building	3	1	0	0
Theft From Coin Operated Machine or Device	0	0	0	0
Theft From Motor Vehicle	3	1	0	0
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts/Accessories	1	0	0	0
All Other Larceny	5	2	4	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	5	0	0	0
Stolen Property Offenses	1	1	0	2
Crimes Against Society				
Drug/Narcotic Violations	1	1	1	0
Drug Equipment Violations	3	3	2	0
Betting/Wagering	0	0	0	0
Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gambling	0	0	0	0
Gambling Equipment Violations	0	0	0	0
Sports Tampering	0	0	0	0
Pornography/Obscene Material	1	0	0	0
Prostitution	0	0	0	0
Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	0	0	0	0
Purchasing Prostitution	0	0	0	0
Weapon Law Violations	0	0	0	0
Animal Cruelty	0	0	0	0
Total Group A Offenses	**51**	**17**	**13**	**3**

(*) Offenses are counted using the FBI Units of Count for Crime

(**) The 'Arrests' column shows arrests made during the selected period, regardless of incident date. Arrest counts may be higher than incident counts.

This report is valid as of June 02, 2023 and is subject to change

Missouri - MO - NIBRS Agency Crime Overview - YTD as of Jun 02, 2023

2022 Population Estimate	**5,891,904**
Offense Overview	
Offense Total	97,435
Number Cleared	27,373
Percent Cleared	28.09 %
Group A Crimes per 100,000 population	1,653.7
Arrest Overview	
Total Arrests	40,760
Adult Arrests	37,834
Juvenile Arrests	2,926
Unknown Age	0
Arrests per 100,000 population	691.8
Average number offenses/incident	1.21

Group B Arrests

Offense	Adult	Juvenile
Bad Checks	8	0
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy Violations	93	41
Disorderly Conduct	950	220
Driving Under the Influence	5,203	52
Drunkenness	11	0
Family Offenses (Nonviolent)	244	7
Liquor Law Violations	416	78
Peeping Tom	1	0
Trespass of Real Property	2,407	61
All Other Offenses	9,488	361
Total Group B	**18,821**	**820**

	Offenses (*)		Arrests (**)	
Group A Offenses	Reported	Cleared	Adult	Juvenile
Crimes Against Persons				
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	143	66	70	8
Negligent Manslaughter	17	5	4	1
Kidnapping/Abduction	263	125	91	1
Rape	459	67	45	13
Sodomy	353	75	51	3
Sexual Assault With An Object	55	5	6	1
Fondling	398	55	30	9
Incest	13	3	1	0
Statutory Rape	66	11	19	3
Aggravated Assault	6,341	2,304	1,830	246
Simple Assault	15,747	6,903	4,109	584
Intimidation	2,775	750	384	90
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	20	4	1	0
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	2	0	0	0
Crimes Against Property				
Arson	315	51	44	11
Bribery	6	5	1	0
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	4,522	667	660	100
Counterfeiting/Forgery	1,176	286	270	6
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	12,227	1,569	760	120
Embezzlement	209	81	82	10
Extortion/Blackmail	72	1	0	0
False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	1,364	278	260	4
Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud	1,263	66	55	3
Impersonation	160	54	38	0
Welfare Fraud	8	0	0	0
Wire Fraud	259	6	6	0
Identity Theft	798	31	20	1
Hacking/Computer Invasion	41	0	0	0
Robbery	909	201	193	58
Pocket-picking	299	25	111	11
Purse-snatching	74	7	3	1
Shoplifting	6,000	2,504	1,804	109
Theft From Building	2,908	354	181	17
Theft From Coin Operated Machine or Device	34	1	2	0
Theft From Motor Vehicle	5,720	159	93	15
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts/Accessories	3,221	64	43	0
All Other Larceny	7,488	745	1,564	145
Motor Vehicle Theft	8,434	557	474	99
Stolen Property Offenses	877	602	534	97
Crimes Against Society				
Drug/Narcotic Violations	5,903	4,371	3,635	259
Drug Equipment Violations	3,454	2,767	768	23
Betting/Wagering	3	3	3	0
Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gambling	17	3	0	0
Gambling Equipment Violations	14	0	0	0
Sports Tampering	0	0	0	0
Pornography/Obscene Material	220	34	27	16
Prostitution	44	30	23	0
Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	9	4	5	0
Purchasing Prostitution	7	4	4	0
Weapon Law Violations	2,600	1,435	681	41
Animal Cruelty	128	35	28	1
Total Group A Offenses	**97,435**	**27,373**	**19,013**	**2,106**

(*) Offenses are counted using the FBI Units of Count for Crime

(**) The 'Arrests' column shows arrests made during the selected period, regardless of incident date. Arrest counts may be higher than incident counts.

This report is valid as of June 02, 2023 and is subject to change

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR SPEWAK AND FIRE & POLICE BOARD MEMBERS

FROM: CHIEF OF POLICE KEN ANDRESKI, JR

SUBJECT: UNIFORM CHANGE

DATE: 6/5/2023

In the ever-changing world of law enforcement, the daily police uniform has also evolved and become a hot button topic not only within the greater St. Louis area, but throughout the country. Agencies and officers alike value functional and comfortable uniforms, while maintaining a professional appearance. Gone are the days of the heavy wool pants and stiff button-down shirts. They have been replaced with lightweight, safer materials and fabrics, which allow for improved ease of movement and comfort. Older uniforms were often too hot and heavy, especially in the summer months, as they were made of materials that did not breathe well and became cumbersome when performing active movements.

To meet the ever-changing demands of our fast-paced world and to provide safety for our law enforcement and the public it protects, uniforms have evolved to include lightweight fabrics, treated with fade-resistant materials, and finished with Teflon for stain resistance. Other features include armpit vents, a mic-cord pass-through, and adjustable cuffs. The uniform shirts are designed to be worn underneath the external body armor carriers and include a wicking material to keep the skin dry.

As we continue our goal of staying current with trends in law enforcement and providing our officers with high quality functional equipment, while maintaining our level of professional appearance, we are seeking approval to change our daily uniforms.

Additional points to include for discussion:

- Price comparison between the current and proposed uniforms – Current uniform pants $84 per pair, includes stripe. ***Proposed uniform pants $72 per pair, no stripe***. Current uniform shirt (L/S) $70, (S/S) $65. ***Proposed uniform shirt (L/S) $60, (S/S) $56.***

- Availability of the current and proposed uniforms – Leon Uniform is our uniform provider and because of the many departments already making the uniform change, they no longer plan to carry the volume of stock currently carried for our uniforms. They are switching the majority of their stock to the proposed style.

- Overall uniform budget – The 2023 General Budget includes $20,000 for uniforms, which includes a $600 uniform allowance per employee. We plan to utilize the same total budget of $20,000 in 2024 to purchase two uniform pants, two long sleeve shirts, and two short sleeve shirts for all employees (see page 2 for complete breakdown), then adjust their allowance for one year to $300. This will accommodate the purchase of miscellaneous equipment such as boots, shoes, flashlights, handcuffs, duty bags, etc...

Elbeco Covert Hidden Cargo Trouser – $72 per pair. $72 x 58 pairs = $4176

Elbeco Long Sleeve Undervest Shirt – $60 per shirt. $60 x 58 shirts = $3480

Elbeco Short Sleeve Undervest Shirt – $56 per shirt. $56 x 58 shirts = $3248

$4176 pants + $3480 L/S shirts + 3248 S/S shirts = $10,904

2024 Uniform account per officer = $300 per officer (half of normal $600) x 29 = $8700

Uniform account $8700 + Proposed uniform expenditure $10904 = $19,604 (provides room for taxes)

After reviewing the requests from officers to change our daily uniforms, performing a test period of the proposed style with five of our officers, and comparing the budget impact, we believe making the uniform change at this time is appropriate.

With this change, we will also mandate patrol officers and sergeants to wear body armor and the external vest carrier during their shifts (policy change required). We also plan to keep the current uniform as our Class A or dress uniform for special events. After consulting with our uniform provider, we believe we can complete the transition by March 1, 2024.

In full disclosure, we plan to review and perform a trial of new duty belts, along with the associated gear, in the near future. However, in order to not impact our budget in 2024, we will continue operating with the clarino gear with this uniform change.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Andreski, Jr
Chief of Police

Share Tweet Pin it

UV1™ CX360™ Short Sleeve Undervest Shirt

SKU - UVS172

COLOR – Midnight Navy

STYLES

Men's Women's

A flexible, functional and comfortable alternative to a traditional uniform shirt, the UV1 CX360 Short Sleeve Undervest Shirt offers both professional appearance and casual style. Visible portions of shirt match CX360 Class A shirt making it a must-have as part of a daily duty uniform.

- 2021 NAUMD Award for Best Garment Innovation/Comfort
- Upper portion made from soft, 4-way stretch, wrinkle-free, anti-pill fabric
- Permanent Nano Fluid Repellency allows fluids to bead and roll off fabric
- Antimicrobial flex underarm mesh vents increase ventilation and range of motion and prevents the buildup of odor-causing bacteria
- Dual communication wire access openings in side seams conceal and contain wires

Data Sheet

Find a Dealer SAVE ♥

MORE DETAILS **STOCK SIZES** **REVIEWS**

- Polyester Style Visible Shirt Fabric: 100% Polyester with 16% 4-way stretch | Weight: 4.5 oz./sq. yard
- Knit Torso Fabric: 100% Featherweight Performance Polyester | Weight: 4.25 oz./sq. yard
- Nano Fluid Repellency and antimicrobial technologies
- Visible portions of shirt match CX360 Class A shirt
- Three-button lined front placket with mic loop and functional epaulets
- Top-fused convertible collar with internal stays
- Flex underarm mesh vents
- Dual communications wire access openings in side seams
- Tagless neck
- Accepts embroidery and silk screening
- Machine washable
- SKU: UVS172, UVS176, UVS181, UVS185

Share Tweet Pin it

CX360™ Covert Cargo Pants

SKU - E3444R

COLOR — Midnight Navy

STYLES

Men's Women's

The ultimate performance uniform is designed to comfortably stand up to the demanding conditions of the streets and maintain a professional public image. It is all about the new, enhanced fabric—the Nanospun, 4-way stretch polyester is wrinkle-resistant, lightweight, and non-absorbent.

- Soft, 4-way stretch wrinkle-free, anti-pill fabric
- 2021 NAUMD Award for Best Garment Innovation/Comfort
- Cellphone pocket on wearer's left side
- Permanent Nano fluid technology allows fluids to bead up and roll off the fabric, keeping you dry and comfortable

Data Sheet

Find a Dealer SAVE ♥

MORE DETAILS | STOCK SIZES | REVIEWS (5)

- Fabric: 100% Polyester with 16% 4-Way Stretch | Weight: 6.3 oz./sq. yard
- Permanent Nano Fluid Repellency is applied at fiber level to last the life of the pants
- UV protection - UVF 50
- Covert flex waistband provides 2" stretch while holding up duty belt
- Snap closure
- Gusseted crotch
- Notched front pockets with reinforcements for a clip knife
- Concealed zipper compartment in left front pocket
- Two hidden side pockets with internal compartments and zipper closures
- Stretch wrinkle-free fabric provides all day comfort and looks great all shift long
- Machine washable

OFFICER.COM

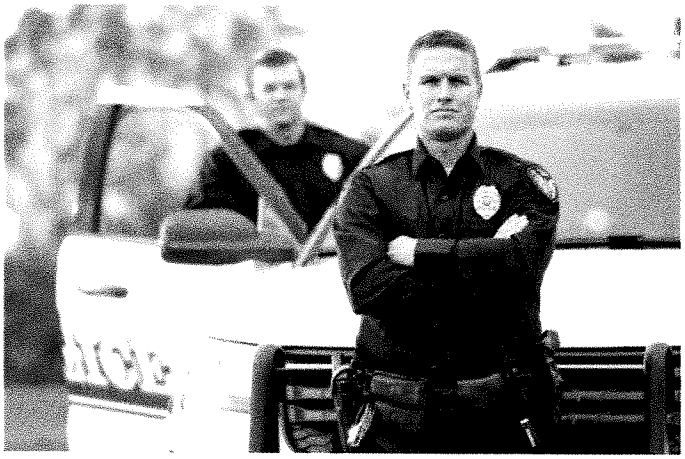
Current Trends in Law Enforcement Uniforms

Changes to make uniforms more durable and yet more comfortable for the officer have improved the day-to-day lives of officers around the globe.

Law enforcement officers have a tough enough job. They should not be fighting with their uniforms while on the job as well. Our officers should have the most comfortable, best-fitting uniforms available.

There are some interesting new trends in LEO uniforms on the market today. Here you will find a review of some of the hottest new trends in material, design and function.

Body armor shirt carriers



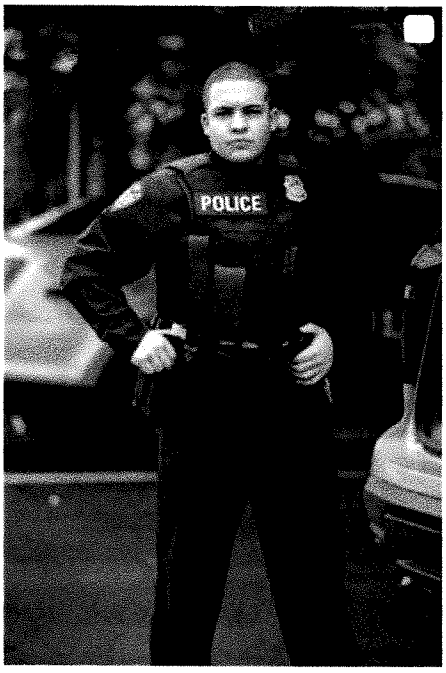
Offering the perfect combination of lasting stretch and durability, Flying Cross FX STAT Uniforms deliver the necessary tenacity required of any public safety uniform.

One of the best advances in uniform technology is integrating body armor into the uniform. For years, officers wore their body armor under their uniform top. This meant one more item of equipment to maintain, clean, etc. The trend began a decade ago to address officer comfort demands. A better way of describing it would be integrating the uniform into the body armor. Brands like 5.11 Tactical, Elbeco and Flying Cross have come up with body armor covers that give the appearance of uniform tops with buttons and pockets. This cover surrounds the body armor and is worn as an outer garment, over a base uniform top. The evolution of body armor shirt carriers today aids in efficiently equipping officers with specialized equipment. Radio mic clips, body camera loops, wired earpiece buttonholes and hidden storage pockets all enhance safety and performance.

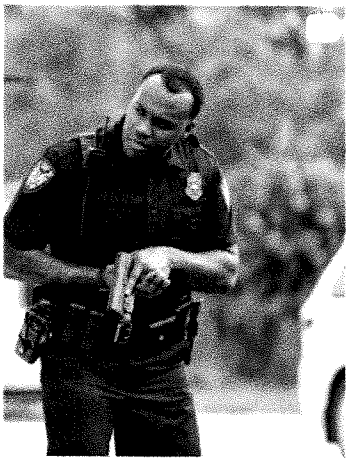
Duty belt vs duty vest

Another trend recently is law enforcement departments moving weight from duty belts and wearing duty vests. Duty vests are a hybrid between body armor shirt carriers and a tactical vest. They are a crossover product that looks professional with the functionality of a tactical vest. There are several reasons why vests make more sense for officers. The obvious one is that it is more comfortable to wear while sitting in a patrol car. But it also makes more sense physiologically. Wearing a duty belt places a strain on the hips and lower back and can cause problems for officers after just a few years on the job. A typical fully accessorized duty belt weighs 25 pounds. Duty vests distribute the weight better across the body, resulting

in less strain on muscles and better overall comfort for the officer. Most duty vests incorporate MOLLE webbing or fixed utility pockets providing abundant room for equipment. Gear is easier to access on the front of a vest than some spots on a duty belt, like the middle of the back for instance. Officers with muscular arms and shoulders often cannot reach the middle of their back, a prime location to keep handcuffs on their duty belt. Subsequently, duty vests increase safety and allow officers to wear ample equipment comfortably while performing multiple job functions.



Duty vests are a hybrid between body armor shirt carriers and a tactical vest. They look professional with the functionality of a tactical vest.



Flying Cross STAT Uniforms guarantee lasting stretch, durability, a modern fit and necessary functional enhancements.

Fabric technology

Fabric technology has become a pioneer industry for both uniforms and fashion. Through advanced technologies and innovative designs, law enforcement uniforms solve job-specific challenges while also enhancing performance, protection, comfort and durability.

Many uniform fabric technologies are borrowed from military research and development. The concept behind ripstop fabric was first proposed during World War II. Those overseeing the U.S. Army's combat uniforms needed fabric that would be resistant to tears and rips on the battlefield. Today, most law enforcement uniform manufactures produce Class A and Class B styled products for current policing.

Choosing a uniform fabric requires analyzing job functions and understanding local geographic weather variables. Trending uniform fabric technologies include moisture wicking, UV protection, anti-microbial and pathogen resistant fabrics. Modern uniforms utilizing these technologies ensure a crisp, professional look with built-in features that keep you dry, repel stains and hold up in the wash, all while feeling lightweight and comfortable.

Moisture-wicking fabric does two things. When you sweat, it draws the moisture away from your body to the outer layer of fabric. This helps your body regulate your internal temperature. The moisture-wicking fabric also dries quickly, so that it does not feel wet against your skin. Cotton and wool fabrics absorb moisture, and take on a heavy, damp feel. Because moisture-wicking clothes are made of synthetic "hydrophobic" material, they prevent moisture from building up. The moisture moves through the fabric to the outer air where it evaporates.

Athletic apparel has long been moisture-wicking. Sports uniforms and workout clothes that people frequently sweat in have adopted the technology and now most of these products are made with moisture-wicking fabrics. But recently, active professions like military, police, EMS and firefighters have started wearing moisture-wicking base layers. This allows them to sweat on the job but remain feeling fresh and dry all day long.

EMTs, paramedics and other emergency medical responders frequently find themselves exposed to blood and bodily fluids. If they encounter these substances, either directly or because they seep through clothing, these professionals face great risk of contracting bacteria and diseases. Pathogen-resistant apparel will prevent these harmful microbes from reaching your skin.

Agencies located within the Sun Belt should consider garments with UV Protection. Excessive exposure to sunlight is harmful to LEO and their uniforms. Garments with UV40+ protection offers your skin a frontline defense against the sun while also preventing the fabric from fading. Sun fading reduces garment lifecycle, which increases overall uniform costs.

Human skin and human sweat can produce several microbes and bacteria that create unpleasant odors. Today, textile constructions, fabric treatments or both are used to block these organisms from being active. Some odor protecting uniforms are made using yarns that contain copper, silver and other metals that are naturally anti-microbial. Synthetic fabrics are more prone to odor, so if a uniform is made of polyester or nylon, look for products with harmless chemical treatment to block odor formation. Anti-microbial technology reduces the accumulation of bacteria that cause odor to keep the fabric fresher longer and prolong the life of your uniform. If you are wearing cotton, wool or rayon uniforms, you are in luck: human skin is acid-based, so these naturally acid fibers repel odor on their own.

Functional stretch

Different brands call it by different names, but one of the newest technologies in uniforms is the functional stretch technology. The concept is a material that stretches in every direction and returns to its original form. This means a much more comfortable feel for the wearer, as well as increased range of motion over traditional materials such as cotton.

Today's technology allows for a combining of the technologies mentioned above into a single material. It is possible to create a fabric that is both durable like Ripstop as well as moisture-wicking to prevent that sticky feeling. This material also stretches to allow maximum range of motion. Flying Cross has a line of

uniforms called STAT, which stands for Stretch, Tenacious, Athletic, Technical. These uniforms incorporate all the latest technology into one of the most advanced law enforcement uniform materials available today.

VaporCore, featured in Flying Cross PRO FIT Base Layers, include active particle technology that is embedded in the semi-compression stretch fabric to deliver a powerful moisture management system.

Soft look vs military look

These days, law enforcement has been in the spotlight, and much of it has not been positive. With police interactions with citizens under more intense scrutiny lately, and a push to "demilitarize" the police, uniforms have also undergone some changes. In the past we have seen police uniforms mirror the military "Battle Dress Uniform" style with cargo pockets, shoulder patches to identify units and rank insignia on the arms. While some of those remain, the uniforms themselves have undergone a "softening" to look more casual and less military. Exterior cargo pockets have been replaced with in seam zipper pockets providing a more finished look. Button down shirts with scalloped pocket flaps and military creases are now available with softer looking mitered pocket flaps and no military creases. Many agencies have replaced the traditional police shirt with performance polos. All these actions are being taken by many jurisdictions to make police look more approachable.

Conclusion

There have been many changes in first responder uniform technology in recent years. Changes to make uniforms more durable and yet more comfortable for the officer have improved the day-to-day lives of officers around the globe. As new fabric technology advances, you can bet that uniform technology will advance with it.

About the Author

Source URL: https://www.officer.com/on-the-street/apparel/article/21216731/current-trends-in-law-enforcement-uniforms

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