



# LOUDON POLICE DEPARTMENT LOUDON, TN



## Chapter 6

Subject: Usage of Departmental Vehicles	Effective Date: 02/27/2006	Revised Date: 2/10/2020
Title: Usage of Departmental Vehicles Policy	Pages: 3	Distribution: All Officers
Cross Reference:	Chief of Police Approval:	

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures governing the operation, care and maintenance of departmental vehicles.

### Policy

All Loudon Police Department Personnel who operate departmental vehicles will comply with the safe driving procedures outlined herein.

This policy shall consist of the following sections:

- I. General
- II. Routine operation
- III. Maintenance
- IV. Responding for calls for service
- V. Interception of violators
- VI. Training

- I. General
  - a. All department vehicles will be driven in a safe and proper manner, with the driver acting in full compliance with all traffic laws and regulations.
- II. Routine operation
  - a. All members who operate a departmental vehicle will possess a valid Tennessee Operators License.
  - b. Members will not use departmental vehicles to push other vehicles unless their vehicle is equipped with a push bumper designed for such use.
  - c. Members should secure their vehicles when they leave the immediate vicinity of their vehicle.
  - d. Department vehicles will not be used to transport animals unless the officer is granted exception by a shift sergeant.
  - e. At the beginning of each shift, members shall inspect their vehicle and fill out a vehicle inspection sheet. The vehicle inspection sheet will be turned in to the shift sergeant no later than the end of that officer's shift.
  - f. Officers will not allow citizens to be passengers in departmental vehicles without authorization from the Chief of Police or a shift sergeant. This rule does not apply when the citizen is a passenger due to the officer carrying out his or her official duties and there is a legitimate need for the citizen to accompany the officer for these duties to be carried out.
  - g. Officers will inspect the interior of their vehicle after transporting a prisoner. They will pay particular attention to the area under and around the back seat in an attempt to keep contraband from being hidden by prisoners.
  - h. Modifications and/or alterations to departmental vehicles may be performed only as authorized by the Chief of Police.
- III. Maintenance
  - a. If other than regularly scheduled maintenance is required to be performed, the member will document the problem on their vehicle inspection sheet, bring the problem to the attention of a shift supervisor, fill out a maintenance request and take the vehicle to the maintenance building for repairs.

- b. In the event an officer requires another vehicle, a shift sergeant shall be notified for instructions on vehicle assignments.
- IV. Responding for calls for service
- a. Under normal patrol, or non-emergency response circumstances, officers shall operate patrol vehicles within the posted speed limits. Officers shall also obey all traffic laws and regulations.
  - b. During emergency response circumstances, officers have the authority under Tennessee Code Annotated 55-88-108 to disregard traffic laws and speed limits, as long as the officer drives with due regard for the safety of all persons and makes use of both audible and visual warning devices (lights and sirens.) ***It is the policy of the Loudon Police Department that during emergency response circumstances, officers shall not exceed 30 miles per hour over the posted speed limit.***
- V. Interception of Violators
- a. During the course of normal patrol duties it may become necessary to catch up to or intercept a traffic violator. In order to complete this duty it will become necessary to utilize short bursts of speed. While engaged in this activity the officer shall exercise due regard for all persons and property which may be affected.
  - b. If an officer makes a decision to intercept or attempt to catch up to an actual or suspected violator he or she shall activate both their audible and visual warning devices in order to be in compliance with TCA 55-88-108.
  - c. If it becomes apparent that the violator refuses to stop, the officer will rely upon the Loudon Police Department's Vehicle Flight Response Policy.
- VI. Training
- a. Officers of the Loudon Police Department will be required to participate in a minimum of four hours of annual training pertaining to the usage of departmental vehicles. This training will include both emergency and non-emergency response methods, pursuit driving, Vanessa K. Free Act, policy reviews and general operation and care of vehicles.