



MINUTES
Joint Meeting Between
Committee #1
Revenues, Disbursements, Water and Wastewater
and
Committee #3
Transportation, Construction, Public Safety and Traffic

August 15, 2017

Committee #1 - Revenues, Disbursements, Water and Wastewater and Committee #3 – Transportation, Construction, Public Safety and Traffic met on Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 5:45 PM in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 30 West Central Street, Chippewa Falls, WI.

Committee Members present: Rob Kiefer, John Monarski, Paul Nadreau, Paul Olson, CW King, Robert Hoekstra.

Other Council Members/Mayor present: Mayor Hoffman

Others present: Finance Manager/Treasurer Lynne Bauer, Police Chief Matt Kelm, Officer Drew Zehm, Rick Flynn.

Call to Order: 5:45 PM

1. Discuss Police Department proposal to add a K9 Unit. Possible recommendations to Council.

Earlier in the year, Committees #1 and #3 had approved the addition of a K9 unit based on Chief Kelm fundraising for the costs. As Chief Kelm performed additional research, he discovered it is difficult to raise funds for ongoing maintenance costs and is asking the committees to authorize funding from the city budget for those costs. He is estimating an annual amount of \$10,000 for training, boarding, food and handler care. Chief Kelm indicates donors are not willing to give to the maintenance costs but he is optimistic he can raise the start-up costs of approximately \$92,000. Options for funding the ongoing costs were discussed.

Motion by King/Olson to recommend the Council approve funding the operational costs of approximately \$10,000 for the K9 unit after start-up funding has been secured. All present voted aye except Kiefer who voted nay. Motion carried.

2. Adjournment

Motion by Olson/King to adjourn at 6:12 PM. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by:
Lynne Bauer, Finance Manager/Treasurer

Chippewa Falls Police Department K9 Program

Case Statement

If maintenance funding is committed the Chippewa Falls Police Department will be seeking the community's support in raising between \$83,900 to \$91,900 to begin a K9 program here in Chippewa Falls. This cost includes the dog, dog and handler training, equipment, and a specially outfitted K9 squad car (see below). There are three major needs that a K9 program addresses that cannot be matched by human police officers. Although the cost is significant, the cost of doing nothing can be much more. As good stewards of our community it is important that we do what we can so that Chippewa Falls remains a safe and family friendly city.

The presence of powdered and crystalline drugs such as methamphetamine, heroin and cocaine cannot be detected by the human nose. Our officers are only able to find these drugs when they are lying out where they can be seen, or when officers are told where they are. Even limited in this way, our officers are seizing these drugs often and the rate of seizure has steadily increased over the last several years. In order to fight this problem we need the tools to detect it. A K9 would greatly increase our ability to find those possessing or transporting methamphetamine and other drugs.

For some incarceration is the only option. However, for others detection followed by arrest or referral is the first vital step that links a person to the court system and provides them with treatment options such as drug court or other treatment while on court-ordered supervision. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse recent studies show that "forced treatment," the type which occurs in conjunction with or following incarceration, is beneficial. The sad reality is that methamphetamine users are not likely to seek out treatment without intervention, which is why detection by law enforcement is so vital to combatting this drug problem.

Drug activity and population density are linked in many ways. According to the Chippewa County District Attorney's Office, in 2016 the Chippewa Falls Police Department referred 43% of all drug cases in the county. We need to put the tool where it can do the most good, right here in Chippewa Falls. An active and effective K9 program can create a reputation which could help deter drug and drug related criminal activity. Reducing the number of victims is the responsibility of our entire community. Our goal should be to prevent crimes, not just solve them.

All community members are negatively impacted by methamphetamine, and particularly those of lower socioeconomic status and children—a population with far less treatment options than others. Methamphetamine impairs a parent's ability to care for their children. As a direct result of increased methamphetamine use, the number of children placed out of the home in Chippewa County by the Chippewa County Department of Human Services rose from 28 cases in 2013 to 140 in just the first half of 2017. Seventy five percent of the cases this year are methamphetamine related.

Reducing the availability of methamphetamine and other drugs in our city can have a significant cost savings over time. Incarceration, treatment, foster care, and all the other associated costs are large consumers of tax dollars in the short term. Over time, taxpayer costs related to the long term mental and physical health as well as the generational impact of methamphetamine users and their families could be much more.

A recent article in the Leader Telegram outlined a disturbing crime trend. In 2010 the 400th felony charge in Chippewa County wasn't filed until December. This year the 400th felony charge was filed in July. In that article, the District Attorney was quoted as stating that the reason for the increase can be summed up in one word: "meth".

This is an issue on the minds of our community members. Our local television and newspaper media have consistently been running an average of a story or two each week involving methamphetamine. NBC recently ran a national story on opioids and meth. Part of the article focused right here in Chippewa and Dunn county. They showed how meth use has tripled in the nation over the last 10 years. The national focus on our immediate area supports the position that the methamphetamine epidemic is very much in our backyard. While methamphetamine gets the most focus, heroin is also becoming more prevalent in our area. There are plenty of wonderful things about the Chippewa Valley that deserve national attention. Drug use should not be one of them.

Other communities around us are responding to this issue by creating or expanding their K9 programs. Eau Claire PD has added a second K9. Chippewa County, Altoona, Bloomer, and Stanley have started fundraising efforts to implement K9 programs and are having success in these efforts. Lake Hallie has had a successful K9 program for the last three years.

With all of our surrounding communities soon to have a K9 program in place, not having one in Chippewa Falls is a cause for concern. For a K9 to be effective it has to be working when and where the drug offences are happening. State statute and case law typically prohibit extending a traffic stop for the purpose of bringing in a K9 in from a different jurisdiction. Time is of the essence in such cases, and not having a K9 in-house will put the police department at a disadvantage.

Addressing the drug problem in our area is a large issue, but it is not the only reason to get a K9. Our department takes calls of the elderly and those with mental health issues who wander from assisted living centers or their homes. As our population ages we expect to see more of this in the future. A K9 unit is a tool that can be used to track and find people who go missing in our community, which is especially important during the winter months.

As a tracking tool a K9 is also important for our officers' safety. A K9 can conduct a search of a dark building faster and more thoroughly than a human officer can. More importantly though, using a K9 to search can greatly reduce the chances of an officer being ambushed while searching.

This is also true during foot pursuits, as dog is faster and less likely to get injured during a foot pursuit than an officer. The mere presence of a dog is usually enough to generate voluntary compliance in many situations.

Finally, a K9 is a great tool to engage children, the elderly, and others with law enforcement in a positive way. Everyone loves dogs and building public trust is a vital role in policing. Between our department's award winning social media program and the many community engagement programs we have, a K9 would fit perfectly into that role here with the Chippewa Falls Police Department. Chippewa Falls is a very safe community. We want to continue to be proactive in meeting these new challenges.

<http://www.leadertelegram.com/Blogs/Chris-Vetter/2017/07/26/Chippewa-County-hits-400-felony-cases-in-July.html>

<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/twin-plagues-meth-rises-shadow-opioids-n776871>

Examples of the impact of K9 units in our area:

Dunn County:

In 2016 Dunn County had 68 K9 incidents. For 2017 they anticipate to be on pace for 132 incidents. Their "find" percentage for tracking individuals is 40% which is the national average for dog tracks.

Village of Lake Hallie:

From March of 2015 to March of 2016 the K9 unit had 36 drug arrest and four tracked and located persons. From March of 2016 to March of 2017 the K9 unit had 67 drug arrests and tracked two subjects. Lake Hallie PD estimated an average of 3-4 drug arrests a month before they had a K9 unit and around 15 a month now. Approximately 1 in 5 vehicles that their K9 unit "sniffs" receive a positive hit on the vehicle.

City of Eau Claire:

The ECPD K9 unit reports that true numbers showing impact of a K9 unit on drugs is difficult to show. This is because there are many times that the mere presence of the K9 has led individuals to tell the truth about drugs in their vehicle without the K9 ever being actually deployed. Their K9 was deployed 36 times. He had numerous tracks including a dementia patient who wandered away in sub-zero temperatures. He also had four apprehensions of suspects including two following a police pursuit, one who fled from a stolen vehicle, and one was a violent felon who fled into the woods following a domestic assault.

FAQ

- What are surrounding agencies doing when it comes to K9 units?

Eau Claire added a second dog to their K9 team. Lake Hallie has an existing K9 unit. Altoona, Bloomer and Stanley are all in the process of fund raising for K9 units. Chippewa County is in the planning phase of starting K9 fundraising efforts.

- Why is there a sudden surge in interest for Law Enforcement to have K9 units?

The reasons mentioned in the Case Statement above are shared by all law enforcement in the region. Increasing drug use, mental health and an aging population, and the need to connect with the community are challenges every department faces. A police dog is a great tool for all these issues.

- With all the other K9 units around the area, why doesn't the Chippewa Falls Police Department use those?

There is more work than one or even several K9 units can handle. Also, as the largest urban area in Chippewa County, the City of Chippewa Falls sees a disproportionate amount of drug activity within the city limits making this area the best spot for a full time K9 unit. Additionally, state statute and case law prohibits police from extending the duration for a traffic stop for the purpose of getting a K9 there in many cases, particularly one coming from a different jurisdiction.

- Why doesn't the city pay for this cost?

Our city, as with many cities and counties, doesn't have the start-up funds to commit a K9 program without the financial support and backing of community groups, businesses, and citizens. Additionally, community support of a K9 program helps to create ownership of the program.

- What are the on-going maintenance costs?

Maintenance of the program is split between call-in pay, compensation for the K9 handler who is required to house and train the dog at his home year-round, and recertification and other maintenance costs for the dog and K9 patrol vehicle.

- What will happen if the K9 officer leaves the department?

When selecting our K9 officer, a commitment to the department for a period of at least 7-9 years will be an important part of our process. If the K9 officer would leave early there are a couple of options that are typically taken and would depend on the age of the dog. The dog could either remain with the department and a new K9 officer would be trained, or the dog would be sold or given to the K9 officer.

- How long can a dog serve as part of a K9 unit?

Dogs typically will work for 7-9 years as part of a K9 unit.

- What would happen if the dog retires, is injured, or otherwise became unable to fulfill their duties?

In this case typically the dog would be sold or given to the K9 officer and a new dog would be selected. The cost of a new dog as well as training for the dog and handler would need to be raised.

K9 Program Implementation Cost - Grand Total: \$83,900 - \$91,900

Cost Breakdown

K9 Initial Equipment Expenses:

- K9 Ballistic Vest Black in color- (Typically Donated)
- K9 First Aid Kit- (Typically Donated)
- K9 Boots for broken glass areas- \$30
- No Spill Dish for Squad- \$25
- Collar- \$50
- Tracking Harness- \$75
- Patrol Leash- \$20
- Tracking Leash- \$40
- Reward item after incidents- \$20
- E-Collar- \$215-\$400
- Pinch Collar- \$30
- Dog Brush/Furminator- \$50
- Shampoo- \$5-10 once per year
- Water dish and Food dish for Officer's home- \$30
- Flea and Tick meds- \$31 every three months
- Ruff wear Cold gear vest- \$60
- K9 Tactical Deployment Mat- \$30
- Two beds for the K9 at Office and Officer's home- \$50
- Crate for Office- \$150
- Narcotic Training Tools- \$1,000

Total Cost: \$2,200

K9 Initial Training Expenses:

- 6 ½ week Sheldahl training program for Patrol/Narcotics K9 training- \$11,800
- Lodging, meals, and gas to go to training- \$8,900

Total cost- \$20,700

K9 Initial Vehicle Cost:

- Option 1 - Chevy Tahoe option: \$36,000.00 – Vehicle is lower to the ground for the dog and has built in rear passenger area heat and air conditioning
- Option 2 - Ford Intercept SUV option: \$28,000.00
- Vehicle Build-out - \$20,000
 - K9 2/3 Vehicle Cage Insert
 - Light bar, Siren, and Controller
 - Graphics on the vehicle
 - F3 K-9 Deployment and Heat Alert System with Pager
 - AceK9 Cooling Fan
 - Center Console
 - Push Bumper with Emergency Lights
- New computer and computer station \$1,700
- Long rifle and Shotgun \$2,320.00
- WatchGuard Video System- \$6,600.00
- Squad Radio - \$500
- AED- \$800.00
- Misc Equipment (Vehicle Registration, Traffic Cones, Water Rescue Device, Fire Extinguisher, etc) - \$1,000

Total Cost: \$ 69,000 (Tahoe Option)
 \$ 61,000 (Interceptor Option)

K9 Maintenance Costs:

- K9 recertification twice a year
- Wisconsin Law Enforcement Canine Handler Association Conference
- Compensation for handler for off duty care of dog
- Boarding costs for dog when handler is gone
- Veterinary Costs
- Verizon Data Account for K9 Squad Computer
- Verizon Monthly Cell Phone stipend for K9 Handler
- Dog food, treats, training tools, etc.

K9 Ongoing Costs Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Below is a list of costs and the budget areas that the maintenance of a K9 Program would impact.

Commitment from the city that maintenance/operational costs for the program will be covered is needed before fundraising. The actual maintenance costs outlined below would not be needed until the fundraising goal is met and the K9 program is actually started. A projected start for the K9 program would be dependent on fund raising, but an anticipated start date would be in 2019.

Operational Budget Costs: \$5,264.00

Overtime Budget Cost: See below

10.52100.5325 - Registration and Tuition - \$650

- K9 recertification twice a year- \$500
- WLECHA Conference- \$150

10.52100.5338 - Travel and Per Diem - \$1594

- Lodging for recertification- \$819
- Meals for Officer- \$305
- Lodging for WLECHA- \$330
- Meal for WLECHA- \$140

10.52100.5225 - Telephone - \$780

- Verizon Data Account for K9 Squad MDC - \$480
- Verizon Monthly Cell Phone stipend for K9 Officer - \$300

K9 costs not associated with a current Budget Account: \$2,240

- Boarding costs when handler is gone estimated cost \$550 (\$20-\$22 a day est. 25 days per year)
- Veterinary Cost yearly- \$250
- Nutro Pro High Protein Grain Free Dog Food- \$1,440.
- *Health Insurance for K9 Injury – Unknown, but believed to be nominal

10.52100.5114 – Overtime

- Handler off duty care. ½ hour of compensation per day is required. If a 50/50 mix of straight paid time and straight comp time is possible it provides a balance of savings to the city and availability of the K9 working shifts.
 - \$3,480.79 straight time pay annually

- *If comp time cannot be granted due to scheduling then up to \$2,866.53 additional annually
- Monthly training 16hrs per month, training will be conducted on duty with no overtime cost to the department as the standard.
- Other cost would be K9 being called out (variable cost). Anticipated costs may be able to be covered by current Overtime Budget and Drug Grants as the actual overtime call out and other costs cannot be known until the program has been in effect. K9 handler would be expected to take comp time when possible to keep overtime costs down.