

MUSCATINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator
FROM: Brett Talkington, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: City Council Agenda Item
DATE: July 28, 2014

INTRODUCTION:

The Muscatine Police Department has received a \$15,000 grant from the Roy Carver Charitable Trust for the purpose of expanding the department's K-9 Unit from a single handler and dog team to a second handler and dog team. In years past the department had maintained (2) K-9 teams within the unit having one assigned to 2nd Shift (afternoons) and one assigned to 3rd Shift (nights). By using this grant for the purchase of a second dog the department will be able to return the K-9 Unit to its past level of service.

BACKGROUND:

The department utilizes dual purpose dogs to fulfill its K-9 needs. Dual purpose means the K-9 is trained in both patrol tactics and narcotics detection. Patrol tactics include building searches, article searches, tracking, handler protection and suspect apprehension. For narcotics detection the K-9 is trained to sniff out drugs such as marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine and heroin to name a few.

The K-9 Unit has been part of the Muscatine Police Department since it was established in 1991. It has experienced a great deal of success and has proven to be an invaluable asset for the community.

RECOMMENDATION/RATIONALE:

It is the Department's recommendation that the City uses the \$15,000 grant from the Roy Carver Charitable Trust to purchase a dual purpose narcotics dog from Vohne Liche Kennel. The \$15,000 will cover the cost of the K-9 and a six week training program plus lodging for the handler. The city has used Vohne Liche for the purchase of its last (4) K-9s and is receiving a discounted price from Vohne Liche for being a return customer.