

MUSCATINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: **Greg Jenkins, City Administrator**

FROM: **Brett Talkington, Chief of Police**

SUBJECT: **City Council Agenda Item**

DATE: **March 19, 2020**

INTRODUCTION:

The Muscatine Police Department is replacing a police canine. Muscatine Police K-9s are cross-trained in both street patrol tactics and narcotic detection. Their use includes drug sniffs, building searches, tracking, article locating, suspect apprehension and handler protection. They are trained to detect a variety of drugs and have been a very successful tool in removing drugs from the community. The department has traditionally had two K-9 teams within the unit but dropped to one K-9 team in 2019. This has impacted the department's ability to provide adequate K-9 coverage.

BACKGROUND:

With the resignation of Officer Alex Rink in June of 2019, the department dropped from two K-9 teams to one. As stated, this had a tremendous impact on the amount of K-9 coverage that was available. Officer Rink's K-9, Jaxx, was assessed for the possibility of retraining with another handler but Jaxx was already several years old. The cost effectiveness of retraining Jaxx and keeping him on the street was not there, so Jaxx was retired from service with Officer Rink's departure. The department is now in a position to replace Jaxx and bring the K-9 Unit back up to strength.

RECOMMENDATION/RATIONALE:

The Department is able to absorb the cost of a new K-9 within its existing budget at no additional cost to the city. It is requested that the City Council authorize the issuance of a purchase order to Vohne Liche Kennels, Inc in the amount of \$17,255.00 for the purchase of a dual-purpose K-9 and 6 weeks of handler training. The Department has been using Vohne Liche as its supplier of K-9's for the past couple of decades and has been highly satisfied with their dogs.