

1 **347-032024**

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3 **RESOLUTION: 347-032024 Authorize the Sheriff's Office to Accept an in-kind Donation from Thomas**
4 **and Penny Harenburg for an additional K-9 Unit, equipment, and training for the Unit valued at**
5 **\$17,000.**

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7 **TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

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9 **WHEREAS**, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office is responsible for providing law enforcement services
10 to the citizens of Winnebago County; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, the deployment of K-9 Units has greatly increased the efficiency and effectiveness for drug
13 interdiction; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, K-9 Units have also proven effective tracking fugitives and missing persons; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, the costs to operate K-9 such as food, veterinary care, training, equipment, and other items
18 are supported through donations to a fund at the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation; and

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20 **WHEREAS**, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office has been offered a donation from Thomas and
21 Penny Harenburg for an additional K-9 Unit, equipment, and training for the Unit valued at \$17,000; and

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23 **WHEREAS**, it would be beneficial for the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office to accept the donation from
24 Thomas and Penny Harenburg for the purchase of a K-9 Unit and equipment; and training for the unit.

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26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby
27 affirms the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office utilization of K-9 units and thanks Thomas and Penny
28 Harenburg for their generous donation an additional K-9 Unit, equipment, and associated training valued
29 at \$17,000.
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Respectfully submitted by:
JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Committee Vote: 5-0

Respectfully submitted by:
PERSONNEL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Committee Vote: 5-0

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33 *Fiscal Note: No budget transfer is necessary. The donation in kind will aid operations of the Sheriff's Office.*

Vote Required for Passage: Two-Thirds of Membership

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36 Approved by the Winnebago County Executive on _____.

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39 _____
40 Jonathan D. Doemel
41 Winnebago County Executive

County Board Report



DATE: March 19, 2024
FROM: John Matz, Sheriff
AGENDA ITEM: 347-032024 Authorize the Sheriff's Office to Accept an in-kind Donation from Thomas and Penny Harenburg for an additional K-9 Unit, equipment, and training for the Unit valued at \$17,000.

General Description:

Authorize the Sheriff's Office to accept an in-kind donation from Thomas and Penny Harenburg of an additional canine and training for the unit valued at \$17,000.

Action Requested:

Recommend the County Board accept the donation and thank the donors for their generosity.

Procedural Steps:

Committee of Jurisdiction:	JPS	Meeting Date:	02/05/2024
	P&F		03/07/2024
Action taken:	JPS	Vote:	5-0
	P&F		5-0
County Board:	March Meeting	Meeting Date:	03/19/2024

Background:

In late 2014, Thomas and Penny Harenburg inquired about making a direct purchase of a canine for the Sheriff's Office. They fully supported the K9 program and wanted to help public safety and law enforcement in Winnebago County by expanding our existing program from two canines to three canines, which allowed for a Unit to be assigned to each shift. This original directed donation of \$17,500 went through the appropriate committees and was approved for acceptance by the full Winnebago County Board on March 17, 2015. In 2022, the Harenburg's made a second direct donation of \$14,700 to purchase another canine and associated training for the Sheriff's Office, which also went through the appropriate committees and was approved for acceptance by the full Winnebago County Board on June 21, 2022.

After seeing the successes of the program and recognizing one of our three working dual-purpose canines is nearing the age of retirement, Thomas and Penny Harenburg have offered to make a third directed donation for another replacement canine, to further support the K9 program and not result in a deficit within the Unit.

The county has a long-standing policy on in-kind donations of property. A cost impact analysis is required to determine the level of approval for a property donation. Cost impacts below \$500 require the county executive's approval. Cost impacts between \$500 and \$3,000 require committee of jurisdiction and P&F approval. Cost impacts of over \$3,000 require county board approval.

In this case, there is no increased cost impact for the county as a fund at the Oshkosh Community Foundation sponsors all costs for the K-9 units. As such, without that philanthropic support, there could be a cost impact of more than \$3,000 to the county and this is being routed to the county board at the Sheriff's request.

There is no budget transfer as the county is not accepting the money directly. We are accepting the asset.

Policy Discussion:

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office is responsible for providing law enforcement and related services to the citizens of Winnebago County. Law enforcement canines are one of the most effective and diverse tools known to police work. They save time for our deputies, reduce the number of deputies needed for a search, or to contain an area, and deliver a more thorough search. Additionally, they are a useful tool to help keep our deputies safe during apprehension of dangerous criminals.

The full-time Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit is comprised of four Deputy/K-9 pairs assigned to the Field Services Division. All canines are owned by the Sheriff's Office. Three of the canines are considered dual-purpose canines and are trained in narcotics detection, tracking, area searches, building searches, article searches as well as apprehension work. In addition to traditional patrol work, they are also used in SWAT applications, search warrants, school searches, correctional facility searches, and demonstrations for the public in all areas of their job duties. The fourth canine is for explosive detection. They will respond to any area of the county as well as bordering counties if requested as mutual aid. The deployments of the K-9 Units have greatly increased the efficiency and effectiveness for drug related patrol work. Likewise, our K-9 Units have also proven effective tracking fugitives, locating missing persons, and security work.

While the canines themselves have a work life expectancy of about 8 years, unexpected expenses occur as well. This, coupled with routine requests from community members to donate funds to our canines, prompted us to consider alternative means for funding. To this end, the Sheriff's Office partnered with the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation several years ago for members of the community to directly fund K9 Unit related expenses. Purchasing of canines and additional extra expenses of the K9 Unit programmatic funding have been distinctly absent from the Sheriff's Office budget, and unanticipated needs spending relies upon community donors for support. It was the hope that enough money would be raised to purchase the next several canines that would be needed at the Sheriff's Office. In recent years, the monies in the fund donated by community members have been used to pay primarily for unexpected medical needs of the canines, ongoing post-surgical medication and office visits, and other needed specialty equipment.

Because Thomas and Penny Harenburg have created several funds under their namesakes at OACF, donating directly to the Sheriff's Office is their preference. It would be beneficial for the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office to accept the generous directed donation from Thomas and Penny Harenburg for the purchase of a canine unit, equipment, and training for the unit.

Committee Discussion and Recommendation:

Judiciary and Public Safety

Chief Deputy Todd Christopherson discussed the \$17,000 donation to the Sheriff's Office from Thomas and Penny Harenburg for an additional K-9 Unit as well as for the equipment and training needed for the new unit. They have graciously donated money in the past towards the K-9 purchases and K-9 equipment. K-9 Tim will be retiring in March so this donation will go towards the purchase of a new K-9 and the training which is held down in New Mexico. A motion to approve and accept an in-kind donation from Thomas and Penny Harenburg for an additional K-9 Unit, equipment, and training for the Unit valued at \$17,000 was made by Chairman Stafford, seconded by Supervisor Defferding. Carried 5-0.

Personnel and Finance Committee

Sheriff John Matz appeared before the committee. Sheriff Matz clarified that this is a replacement of a retiring dog and this is the third dog the Harenburg's have funded.

Ms. Ellenberger asked how retirement of a handler or a dog works. Sheriff Matz reported a retired dog is sold to the handler for a dollar. The department is careful about who can keep the dog long term. Sheriff Matz did report that handlers could switch with the same dog in the case of a handler retirement or promotion.

Motion by Steve Binder, seconded by David Albrecht to approve the resolution titled Authorize the Sheriff's Office to Accept an in-kind Donation from Thomas and Penny Harenburg for an additional K-9 Unit, equipment, and training for the Unit valued at \$17,000. Passed. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0

Attachments:

None