





# Should the City of Crete invest in a Police Service Dog Program?





#### The Program

<u>End</u>: A sustainable police service dog program with lasting benefits to our Community

# <u>Ways:</u>

- Develop and sustain a connection between the Community and the service dog program
- Leverage and develop internal capacity to initiate and carry on the program through time
- Develop funding sources apart from only taxation



# The Program

### Means:

- A trained and effective police service dog
- A trained and effective handler
- Trained leadership
- A kennel
- A vehicle and durable supplies
- Expendable supplies
- Veterinary services
- General care





# <u>Ways</u>

- Develop and sustain a connection between the Community and the service dog program
  - Public interaction
  - High visibility at local events
  - Engagement during Citysponsored activities





Police Service Dog Program Decision Brief



# <u>Ways</u>

- Leverage and develop internal capacity to initiate and carry on the program through time
  - Reliance on current expertise
  - Leverage current interest
  - Total participation from the Department
  - Community support





# <u>Ways</u>

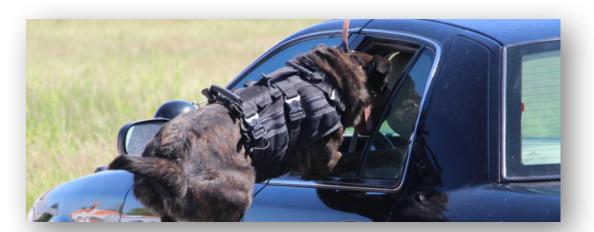
- Develop funding sources apart from only taxation
  - Donations (e.g., direct funding and in-kind)
  - Seizures, as part of a mature and active Program
    - Not a guarantee
    - Part of task force operations







- A trained and effective police service dog
  - Selection (varying levels of training)
  - Post purchase State training and certification
  - In-service training (individual and collective)
  - Experience through success



Discussion Point: How do we select the right dog?

#### Dog purchase: \$13,000+

Purchase price can vary greatly due to prior training of the animal, market demand, location, breeding, etc Police Service Dog Program Decision Brief



- A trained and effective handler
  - Selection
  - State training
    - Handler/dog
    - Four (4) months NLETC
  - In-service training
    - Available in the area
    - That which we create
    - Relationships with other agencies
  - Experience through success

State training course: Lodging and meal costs NLETC Lodging (Handler: \$2,000 / Service dog: \$160)





# Trained leadership

- Presently: Sgt Jon Pucket
  - Trainer/Handler: 1991-1993 Detector Dogs international
  - Handler: 1993-1998
    - Phelps Co Sheriff's Office
  - A resource to other LE agencies
- Must be more than "one-deep"
- State training





- A kennel
  - Local (at residence of handler)
  - Safe and well-constructed
  - Donations sought to cover materials
  - PD built



Discussion Point: Where will the kennel be?

#### Materials estimate (other than concrete): \$2,500



- Vehicle and durable supplies
  - Ford Explorer (Outfitted for patrol use and dog)
  - Muzzle
  - Leashes
  - Ballistic Vest
- Training supplies
  - Training harness, E-collar, kongs, etc.
  - 'Bite' suit
  - Arm sleeve and cover

Vehicle: \$67,600

+ Dog specific vehicle items: \$6,200

Rear seat animal insert (split dog/prisoner), remote door opening devices, fans, heat alert, mat, LED light etc.

Discussion Point: What's needed in the vehicle?

Durable supplies: \$1,500 Training supplies: \$2,900



- Expendable supplies
  - Food: Nestle Purina has donated food for area service dogs in the past.
  - Water
  - Bowls
  - Toys
  - Treats
  - Waste bags, etc.



#### Food alone: \$800/yr



- Veterinary services
  - County
  - Crete
  - Anticipated costs
    - Check-ups
    - Shots
    - Illnesses and injuries





\$1,100/yr



General Care

The handler will be allotted ½ hour each shift to the general care of the service dog.

- Grooming
- Feeding
- Exercising







#### **Mutual Aid**

- County
  - Two dogs
  - Availability
- Southeast Nebraska
  - Area service dog programs
  - Task force



Discussion Point: What's the local task force?



# Added Value

- To the Community
  - Increased capacity to be served
  - A Community/City rallying point
- To the Department
  - Increased capacity to serve
  - Potent and reliable control measure
  - Retention and professional development
    - Job satisfaction
    - Opportunities unavailable elsewhere
- Strengthen existing relationships
- Reservoir of goodwill

Discussion Point: What will make Crete's Program special?

Increased

capacity



# A Successful Program through Time

- Entered into with expectation of success
  - Internal capacity now
  - Officers devoted to the Program
  - Training and experienced guaranteed



- Longevity
  - Officers who learn and prove themselves are the handlers of tomorrow
  - Community connection





# Should the City of Crete invest in a Police Service Dog Program?

