



Staff Report

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Sean Thuilliez, Chief of Police
DATE: April 6, 2021
SUBJECT: Patrol Canine Proposal

Background and Analysis:

The Beaumont Police Department (BPD) implemented a detection canine program in 2016, which has proven to be a vital asset, both locally and regionally. The BPD still relies upon the Riverside County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol for supplemental patrol canine services. These services include suspect apprehension, suspect tracking, and article tracking.

While both organizations have been willing to assist the BPD in critical incidents, they are not always readily available due to the large demand for them by their respective agencies as well as other outside agencies within the county. Often their canines are unavailable to the BPD for a variety of reasons like being engaged with other priority calls, and/or they are not able to arrive on scene in a timely basis.

BPD's expansion of its canine program to add a patrol canine service allows the opportunity to effectively increase a tried and trusted means to expand non-lethal options when actively engaging suspects. This proposal would be to utilize a patrol/detection canine in the following four major categories:

Suspect Apprehension

The use of a trained canine has proven to be a valuable resource to law enforcement. When properly used, a canine greatly increases the degree of safety to citizens within a contained search area, enhances individual officer safety, significantly increases the likelihood of suspect apprehension, and dramatically reduces the time necessary to conduct a search. Proper utilization of a canine search also reduces the need to resort to deadly force.

Suspect Tracking

Canines can aid in the tracking of suspects who have fled from a fresh crime scene or fled from a vehicle or location. In rural and urban areas, officers are often required to

track suspects through dense brush or in heavily populated areas. A swift apprehension benefits the safety of local residents as well as the suspects.

Narcotic Detection

I-10, SR60, and SR79 intersect in the City of Beaumont which brings a significant amount of vehicular traffic into the area. I-10 is often used as a drug trafficking corridor as it extends from California to Florida. A narcotics detection canine is an asset to patrol officers who suspect that a person or vehicle may be transporting narcotics. The canine can reduce officer time and quickly locate narcotics that can lead to an increase of arrests and convictions.

Community Involvement

A police canine fundraising program offers the community a means to be active partners in the program and the BPD. The canine itself is a positive tool for community policing as it draws attention and helps to build positive relationships between the police department and the community.

How the Canine Does its Job

Canines have long been utilized by military, search and rescue organizations, law enforcement and similar agencies because of their ability to do what humans cannot. Due to its extremely keen sense of smell, a canine can search a large area much faster and with higher accuracy than a team of officers without a canine. In addition, a canine can be cross trained to detect and alert on certain odors, such as narcotics or explosives.

Patrol canines are trained to use a “bite and hold” technique. They hold onto a suspect until the officer can safely effect an arrest. These unique abilities provide an option to add a valuable, non-lethal asset to law enforcement agencies.

Policy/Risk Management

The BPD has implemented a canine/canine handler policy that outlines the procedures for a canine program. This policy gives the framework for selection, training, and deployment of a patrol canine.

A patrol canine and its handling officer is considered a canine team. Each canine team must complete a training course in accordance with the strict guidelines set forth by the Commission on Peace Officers Standard and Training (POST) before deployment. The primary responsibility of the canine team is to search, locate, and assist in the apprehension of serious criminal offenders. Typically, a canine team is deployed to search a building or an area where a felony suspect may be hiding.

Additional Benefits

There are many reasons why the community would benefit from this program. One of which is that the assigned officer will be from the BPD with a vested interest in this community. Additionally, the canine would be available to support neighboring agencies and surrounding communities as part of an on-going collaborative approach to policing and mutual aid obligations.

Fiscal Impact:

The start-up costs for a patrol canine program is approximately \$31,159.60. This includes the cost of the canine, training, conversion of a 2018 Chevy Tahoe, and miscellaneous tools and supplies. Re-occurring annual costs are approximately \$6,500 for the treatment and care of the dog and approximately \$4,000 in annual payroll expenses for the officer/handler.

BPD estimates a cost of \$6,101.02 to fully equip an existing 2018 Chevrolet Tahoe to accommodate a patrol canine animal. Once deployed as a patrol canine unit, the Tahoe would need to be replaced with a standard patrol vehicle. BPD proposes to purchase a 2021 Ford Police Interceptor as a replacement at an estimated cost of \$57,556.51.

The total cost to implement this proposed patrol canine is estimated to be \$88,716.11. One-time set up costs would be funded through the use of restricted funds such as public safety CFD revenues. Ongoing, reoccurring costs would be incorporated in the BPD annual budgets.

The total cost to purchase and train the canine, purchase, and outfit one vehicle, convert and outfit another vehicle, will be approximately \$88,716.11.

Recommended Action:

Authorize staff to purchase and train a police canine in an amount not to exceed \$32,000.00;

Authorize staff to convert an existing fleet vehicle, a 2018 Chevy Tahoe, to a canine vehicle in the amount not to exceed \$6,500;

Authorize staff to purchase a new vehicle to replace the converted Tahoe with a 2021 Ford Police Interceptor in an amount not to exceed \$37,000 from National Auto Fleet Group;

Authorize staff to purchase the emergency equipment in the amount not to exceed \$12,500 from 10-8 Retrofit for a 2021 Ford Police Interceptor;

Authorize staff to purchase the police graphics for a 2021 Ford Interceptor in the

amount not to exceed \$600 from Cop Car Graphics; and
Authorize staff to purchase and install a mobile data computer in the new Ford
Interceptor in an amount not to exceed \$8,300.

Attachments:

- A. K-9 Quote
- B. West Coast Lights Quote
- C. Ford Interceptor Quote
- D. Graphics Quote
- E. Retrofit Quote
- F. Mobile Data Terminal Quote