

TOWN COUNCIL

STAFF REPORT

Bluffton Police Department



MEETING DATE:	March 14, 2023
PROJECT:	Regional Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) for Special Weapons, Violent Crimes Task Force, Bomb Squad, K9 Unit and Marine Patrol
PROJECT MANAGER:	Joseph Babkiewicz, Chief of Police

REQUEST: Town Staff requests Town Council to authorize the Town Manager to execute several MOA's with Beaufort County Sheriff's Office and surrounding agencies. The MOA's will include SWAT, Violent Crimes Task Force, Bomb Squad, K-9 Unit Team, and Marine Patrol.

These positions will be on a call-out/part time position as needed. Beaufort County will supply all equipment needed for these additional responsibilities. The violent crimes task force is the only position that will be a full-time position.

BACKGROUND: Beaufort City, Port Royal, Bluffton Police, and Beaufort County Sheriff's office are all looking to come together and regionalize special teams that will provide services throughout Beaufort County. Each department will have personnel on these teams to help support all of our local agencies and communities.

NEXT STEPS: The next steps for the implementation of these teams, is to seek interest from officers on each team. Officers will have the opportunity to participate in tryouts; if they pass, they will become part of the team. The officers selected for each team will go through specific training provided by BCSO before being part of the callout schedule.

SUMMARY: These MOU's will help local law enforcement agencies work together to provided services to each of their communities. It also provides our officers with an opportunity to train in various special skills that they can bring back to the department to help improve our operational capabilities. In addition, it will help provide the Town of Bluffton with additional resources during a major event. The violent crimes task force will also focus on narcotics in the Town of Bluffton as well as potential gang activity. This will help continue to keep the Town of Bluffton one of the safest communities in the state.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Special Weapons and Tactics Team Memorandum of Understanding
2. Violent Crimes Task Force Memorandum of Understanding
3. Bomb Squad Memorandum of Understanding

4. K9 Unit Team Memorandum of Understanding
5. Marine Patrol Memorandum of Understanding
6. Proposed Motion