



Agenda Memo

Crest Hill, IL

Meeting Date: 06-19-2023
Submitter: Police Chief Edward Clark
Department: Police Department
Agenda Item: Retirement of Police Canine and new police dog acquisition

Summary: Officer John McHale resigned from the Crest Hill Police Department on May 29, 2023. He was our canine handler. The Police Department was initially intent on retrieving Simo, providing training to transfer him to a new handler, with city council approval. I was contacted by Will County States Attorney Jim Glasgow who was aware of Officer McHale's departure. He provided me with an alternative. Glasgow informed me that he would purchase a new dog for our department and provide all the training needed to certify the dog for policework. This dog would be a single purpose dog, just as Simo was (Drug detection, article search, tracking). I also would obtain a German Shorthair Pointer.

I believe this is the best course of action. The Canine program has been very successful as a public relations tool and in the field, assisting Law Enforcement.

Simo is now 7 years old. He has had surgery for gastric torsion and issues with tearing a dew claw. He is currently operational and effective; however, no one knows for exactly how long. He was obtained from the Berwyn Police Department, and this would be his third handler if we kept him. Obtaining a new dog will help the new handler and our agency start fresh with a new canine.

We discussed this issue at the June 12, 2023 work session. I recommend retiring Simo from duty and acquiring a new canine for our department.

Thank you for your support of the Police Department.

Recommended Council Action: Approval of retirement of Police Canine Simo and the acquisition of a new police dog.

Financial Impact: \$0

Funding Source: General Fund

Budgeted Amount: \$11,600.00

Cost: \$0

Attachments: Sale receipt, ordinance to surplus city owned property.