



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

FROM: David Niedert – Police Chief

DATE OF MEETING: November 6, 2023

ITEM TITLE: Department Report – Police

- The K9 squad has been completed and delivered. A few minor glitches to work out, the upfitter Karl Chevrolet will be working on those things. The old K9 squad car will be sold by a sealed bid process. This is due to numerous agencies wishing to purchase the squad, as it is already set up as a K9 vehicle.
- Due to a complete lack of police pursuit package vehicles in the Midwest, we were unable to locate a vehicle to replace the damaged squad (insurance settlement). The replacement must be a Ford Explorer because all the interior items are for an Explorer. Because of this I, with the City Manager's approval, moved up the replacement of the investigator's vehicle to this fiscal year. We were able to find one Dodge Durango Police Package in Galena, IL. We tried to work through our local dealership, but this was not able to be done, so we purchased this vehicle through Galena Chrysler. The Chevrolet Pickup was traded in on this vehicle. It will be upfitted within the next month.
- Our law enforcement liaison, Kimberly, through Foundation2 has been a wonderful addition to the services we offer. She has two long-term clients now that have benefited from these directed services and reduced calls that officers have had to handle in the past. In the last week, she has also been working on trying to offer services to two homeless individuals.
- Officer Cornwell has started teaching DARE at St. John's Elementary again. Our department has also been co-teaching a forensic science class at Independence High School once a week this semester. This has been well received by all students and we look forward to continuing this next semester.
- We hosted a K9 decoy school here in Independence in the last month. This was funded by Vested Interest in K9's. This school brought over 30 officers and instructors to our community for a week. The address below is for the news coverage of this event:
<https://www.kcrg.com/2023/10/18/law-enforcement-agencies-across-eastern-iowa-get-special-k9-training-thanks-nonprofit/?fbclid=IwAR1MwS7QwC3pL-4qDSymXXGg5KhtEMqKUGRSqNdfrpeg3-11TZb6Gy-gsEQ>
- Officer Flack is back from his Army Reserve Deployment, and we expect him to rejoin our department in January. We are grateful that he serves not only our community but his country.
- Officer Gudenkauf completed Precision Driving Instructor School through the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, which will help us to meet the ongoing training requirements of the Iowa Code.
- Captain Lau and Chief Niedert met with Mark Davich from Sensys Gatso and have initiated a plan for collections of non-paid ATE speed citations. Our payment percentages are within a few points of the state average.