



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

DATE OF MEETING: July 1, 2024

ITEM TITLE: Fire Department – Request for Therapy Dog

DISCUSSION:

Representatives from the Fire Department will be present to talk to the Council about a therapy dog for the department. 1st Assistant Chief Butler has a dog, Shakespeare, who is believed to be a good fit for this program. The organization is Crisis Canines of the Midlands, and they have a program that trains dogs for this purpose. 1st Assistant Chief Butler has been in contact with them regarding this possibility.

Knoxville, Manchester, Newton, and Urbandale are a few who have implemented therapy teams within their Fire and EMS Departments.

The City of Independence would have no direct responsibility for the care or cost of this canine training, although if the City was willing to contribute, they would be welcome since the overall cost of the program is approx. \$10,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends discussion of this topic. No action is needed at this meeting, as any decision items needed would be brought forward to a City Council meeting for approval.