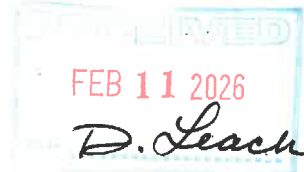


MACKINAC ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT



Dwayne Miedzianowski
Chief of Police

Request for Review to the Mackinac Island City Council
Council Meeting
February 18, 2026



*Submitted to the
February 18, 2026
Council mtng.*

101-305

REQUEST TO RENEW K9 AGREEMENT

We are through the first year of the Canine / K9 Program. The agreement expires tomorrow. The program has made significant strides. K9 Handler Sue Stejskal and partner K9 Captain Bean have received national recognition for their training accomplishments throughout this past year. Sue Stejskal has found the tracking training for missing / lost persons and it is next month. That has been our big hope, with the K9 program and to have the capability of tracking lost / missing people and now we are to the point where we can have it accomplished. I request that we renew the program and make the position a volunteer on call paid Reserve position as she would need to be such status to attend some of the needed trainings for police K9 handlers and their programs in the future. We have a donor that is willing to donate the \$1200 again this year to cover the program expenses. Her originally funded \$20 per hour for callouts, will come from already budgeted funds managed by the Chief. We have found a grant that will cover the training in March, but I needed to come to you and ask permission for the program to be renewed before I can secure the grant. I request that we renew the K9 Program. Thank you.

PROPOSED MOTION:

To authorize the Police Department to renew the K9 Program for one year with K9 Handler Sue Stejskal and use the \$1200 donation to cover any needed expenses with her \$20 per hour callout fee coming from already existing budget 305 funds.

Motion Made By: _____

Motion Supported By: _____

Voting Yea: _____

Voting Nay: _____

Absent: _____

Motion Carried: Yes / No

**MACKINAC ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT CANINE UNIT
RENEWAL PROPOSAL REQUEST**

SUMMARY

This report is being submitted by K9 Handler Sue Stejskal at the request of Chief Dwayne Miedzianowski to summarize the highlights of Year 1 of the Mackinac Island Police Department (MIPD) Canine Unit and to request continuation of this program for Year 2 (2026). As will be seen 2025 was a very successful and productive year, both by providing police canine services and educational opportunities, as well as receiving national certifications and recognition for Stejskal and her dogs.

A cost:benefit analysis demonstrates the value of this program. At an annual cost to the City of Mackinac Island in 2025 of \$1200 (donated funds), Stejskal spent over 400 hours from mid-March to October, 2025 spent approximately \$4500 in training, service and educational opportunities provided by K9s Maple and Sheriff Woody. This included the purchase and training of a new dog (K9 Captain Bean) that is being trained in scent-specific trailing (SST) to serve the residents and visitors to Mackinac Island. A proposal requesting funding for a canine SST seminar in March is included as Attachment 3.

It is hoped that in 2026 Stejskal will also be able to help with the development of policy development, planning, and training in the area of Search Operations. If possible, Stejskal will work as a Search and Rescue Operations (SAROps) Coordinator and will review and updates any existing MIPD SAROps policies. New assets, technologies, search methods, and individuals from different agencies will be identified as part of a SAROps team. It is hoped over the next year, Stejskal will create and provide both table-top and practical training for members of the MIPD.

CANINE HIGHLIGHTS

The end-of-season report also provided describes some of the accomplishments of each of the K9s owned and handled by Stejskal. The 2025 highlights for K9s Maple, Sheriff Woody, and Captain Bean are summarized below.

K9 Maple: (Springville Maple Rush, CGC, TKN, RI, PSDD)

Although retired from the St. Joseph County Sheriff's Office as a human remains detection (HRD) canine, Maple continued to provide assistance with some cold-case (missing person) investigations (Alger County Sheriff's Office, St. Joseph County Sheriff's Office, and Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety).



K9 Maple was medically retired from large-scale searches, but after surgery and recovery, she started in a special project at the Michigan State University's Pollinator Performance Center. Stejskal trained her to detect a bacterial disease that kills honeybees around the world. In July 2025, the MSUToday on-line magazine featured Maple's story which quickly spread across the globe after interviews with the Associated Press, the Washington Post and other news outlets¹.

Most importantly on December 1st, the American Kennel Club (AKC) announced the winners of the Award of Canine Excellence and Maple was awarded the prestigious ACE for her work in human remains detection. This highly competitive award was also featured in many on-line publications and national news programs.²

K9 Sheriff Woody: (Hundeleben Oh It's Sheriff Woody CGC, TKN, RN, RI, PSDD, USPCA, PSTC)

¹ Boylan-Pett L., Schrader N, Kohuth G., and J. Templin-Fulton. (July 23, 2025). Buzz-worthy: Spartan research saves the bees". <https://msutoday.msu.edu/news/2025/07/buzz-worthy-spartan-research-saves-bees-pollination>

The Optimist. (August 9, 2025). "This dog used to sniff out cold cases for police. Now she's saving bees. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2025/08/09/maple-dog-bee-conservation/>

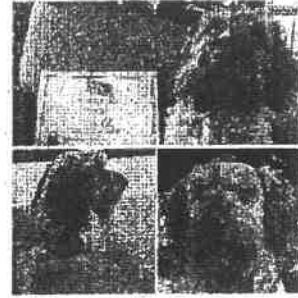
Householder, M. (August 11, 2025). "Former K-9 Maple is busy as a bee sniffing out threats to Michigan State University colonies". <https://apnews.com/article/honey-bee-dog-pollinator-disease-9ced0273978573fd373b4f5d8a7130a1>

Sample K. (December 1, 2025). "Meet the winners of the 2025 AKC Human Fund Awards for Canine Excellence (ACE). <https://www.akc.org/press-releases/meet-winners-2025-akc-humane-fund-awards-canine-excellence-ace/>

² Sample K. (December 1, 2025). "Meet the winners of the 2025 AKC Human Fund Awards for Canine Excellence (ACE). <https://www.akc.org/press-releases/meet-winners-2025-akc-humane-fund-awards-canine-excellence-ace/>

New D. (January 5, 2026). "'Incredible dog' is sniffing to save the honeybees". <https://abcnews.go.com/US/video/incredible-dog-sniffing-save-honeybees-128903767>

K9 Woody works as a human remain detection (HRD) canine (land and drowned victim recovery) and participated in missing person cases in Michigan. K9 Woody also received the Police Service Detection Dog title from the AKC in 2025. He also assisted with educational lectures at Western Michigan University. K9 Woody has received national awards for his work as an HRD canine.



K9 Woody was also recognized as a 2025 ACE winner when the national organization Crisis Response Canines received the 2025 ACE Team award. CRC provides highly trained canine teams that respond following critical incidents. With additional handler training and team testing, Stejskal and K9 Woody are one of the CRC teams.

K9 Woody was also recertified by the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) as a police service therapy canine (PSTC) providing therapy services for several responders in the Mackinac Island community.

K9 Captain Bean (Briarwire's Apollo Captain Bean USPCA_{PSTC})

K9 Bean is the newest member of the MIPD Canine Unit. Born on New Year's Eve (2024), he is already certified by USPCA as a PSTC and is in training in scent-specific trailing (SST) for his work with the MIPD. This training requires a methodical approach, taking time to ensure that the dog is able to locate the missing person, starting from an article containing an individual's scent.



Stejskal has had the opportunity to focus on SST training with K9 Bean over the winter. He is making excellent progress and hopefully will be deployable soon.

HANDLER/TRAINER STEJSKAL (brief biography)

Susan Stejskal, LVT, PhD, is a licensed veterinary technician, and retired board-certified toxicologist and Human Remains Detector (HRD) and bio-detection canine trainer and handler.

With more than 30 years of educational and professional experience, Stejskal continues to participate and consult on land and water HRD canine searches throughout Michigan, central Midwest United States, and Canada. With this experience, Stejskal has provided training in search operations for law enforcement personnel (crime scene, detectives, and canine handlers) across the US and Canada.

Stejskal is a member of the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) as well as a certified regional detector judge. Stejskal is a member of the International Association for Identification, the Disaster Assistance Recovery Team (Michigan), Crisis Response Canines, and served on two national committees tasked with developing best practice and federal standards for detection canines. Stejskal has authored many magazine and journal articles, book chapters, and textbooks and is currently working on a bio-detection canine training guide for Michigan State University. Stejskal's work in toxicology and pathology and her experience as a canine handler led to the development of practical forensic science training law enforcement personnel.

ATTACHMENT 1

MACKINAC ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT CANINE UNIT

END-OF-SEASON SUMMARY

(Submitted by K9 Handler Sue Stejskal on November 3, 2025).

This report covers the time and expenses dedicated to training, service, and education for the MIPD Canine Unit provided by K9 Handler Sue Stejskal. Activity reports have been submitted to the Chief of Police at the end of each month and provide the numbers included in this summary.

The highlights of the first year of this program include the following:

K9 Captain Bean

- Purchased and conducted extensive training of wire dachshund (Briarwire's Apollo Captain Bean) to train for scent-specific trailing (SST) to help with the location of missing persons and assist in an officer/responder wellness visits.
- Stejskal and K9 Bean attended beginning obedience classes to provide the base for his work.
- Training began with hours of environmental and socialization in areas that K9 Bean may be expected to deploy in.
- K9 Beane has been very successful in this and has successfully completed SS trails both in the Mackinac Island State Park and the busy downtown areas.
- In October, K9 Captain Bean was certified as a Police Service (Law Enforcement) Therapy Canine (PSTC) by the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA).
- He continues to be successful in his SST training and shows great promise for future service to the MIPD.

K9 Sheriff Woody

- K9 Woody was used several times in his role as a PSTC, visiting several locations on the island with a focus on the staff at the Mackinac Island Medical Center. K9 Woody also participated in multiple officer wellness visits at various law enforcement agencies in Michigan.
- K9 Woody continued with maintenance training in human remains detection (HRD) throughout the year.
- K9 Woody also assisted another law enforcement agency in a missing person (probably homicide) investigation as well as participated in teaching two classes at Western Michigan University.

- K9 Woody successfully completed his annual certification test as a PSTC by the USPCA.

Time, Miles, and Expenditures

The following table includes the time, miles, and expenditures donated for the MIPD Canine Unit by K9 Handler Sue Stejskal between March and October. Costs for maintaining the dogs (food, rewards, veterinary bills, etc.) were not included unless specified in a monthly report.

MONTH	TIME (hours)	MILEAGE (round trip)	COST
March/April	54	166	\$3027.62
May	58.25	174	80.00
June	64	214	328.56
July	71.5	276	696.90
August	84.75	579	221.35
September/October	109.25	328	240.00
TOTAL	441.75	1737	\$4594.43

SUMMARY

K9 Handler Stejskal did receive \$1200 annual pay for the 2025 Canine Unit Program, but donated the rest in time, mileage, and costs incurred each month. K9 Handler Stejskal is committed to this program to help do her part working for the MIPD to serve the residents, visitors, and the greater Mackinac Island community.

Plans for the future of the MIPD Canine Unit include continued SSTT for K9 Bean to help make him become a valuable resource to the MIPD in times of need. Maintenance training for both dogs in their roles as PSTC will also continue along with annual certification by the USPCA. K9 Woody will continue maintenance training in HRD as needed by MIPD and other law enforcement agencies.

Future plans of K9 Handler Stejskal is to update and produce training for members of the MIPD and other agencies as interested in Search and Rescue Operations Management (SAROPS), something she has provided many departments and agencies around the United States and Canada. The goal is to help the MIPD become even more efficient and experienced when and if such a response is needed.

ATTACHMENT 2: STEJSKAL AND MACKINAC ISLAND PUBLICATIONS

Background information

Mikus, M. (May 12, 2012). "Buzz teaches island students about the life of a working dog". Mackinac Island Town Crier.

Dau, J. (June 30, 2012). "Police dog has special skills – Stejskal to sign children's book on service dog". Mackinac Island Town Crier.

Tucker M. (July 28, 2018). "Family celebrates life of K-9 Buzz serving others during victory lap." Mackinac Island Town Crier.

Rankin, A. (July 01, 2022). "Dogs will now help state park control birds, funded by foundation grant". Mackinac Island Town Crier.

Johnson, M. (August 24, 2023). "Mackinac Island's resident police dog is 'tiny rock star'". Mackinac Island Town Crier.

Parks, J. (August 1, 2024). "Island canine detective sniffs for bee disease". Mackinac Island Town Crier.

ATTACHMENT 3

Mackinac Island Police Department Canine Unit Scent-Specific Trailing-Training Seminar Proposal 2026

(Updated by K9 Trainer/Handler Sue Stejskal on January 13, 2026)

Summary

The Sixth Annual All Breed Tracking/Trailing Seminar will be held March 19-22, 2026 and will be hosted by the Florida Public Safety Institute (FPSI) at Tallahassee State College, FL. The canine teams will train across the FPSI's grounds which include more than 1500 acres of wooded terrain, wetlands, streams, bodies of water, and residential and urban settings. Training is conducted during the day and night. Many topics including collection and preservation of scent articles from an identified individual, search strategies, and canine handling are covered.

This proposal is being submitted by Reserve K9 Officer Sue Stejskal with the intention of securing funding to attend this seminar with K9 Captain Bean, a dog in training for scent-specific trailing for the Mackinac Island Police Department. Although K9 Bean is progressing nicely in his training, this is the first dog Stejskal has trained in this discipline (life find). Any opportunity for additional training will help enhance the trailing capacity of K9 Bean with Reserve K9 Officer Stejskal.

Estimated Seminar Budget

Registration

The seminar registration is \$550.00 and includes the seminar and three nights of lodging.

Lodging

As the drive to Tallahassee is approximately 15 hours each way (not including stops, etc.), two nights of lodging will be needed. Overnight stays are estimated at \$150 per night, with a possible pet fee of \$25 per night. The pet fee is often waived for working canines. The total for lodging is estimated at \$300.

Transportation

The transportation costs include the following:

- Car rental: Based on picking up a car (March 17) in Michigan and returning it to the same company (March 24), estimates run from about \$350 to \$425.
- Fuel: Total costs were estimated to be \$320.00. This was based on 2000 miles round trip, 25 miles per gallon, and \$4.00 per gallon ($2000/25 \times 4 = \320).
- Per diem costs are not included in this estimate.

Summary of Costs

COSTS	DRIVING
Registration	\$550
Lodging (on the road)	300
Rental car	400
Fuel	320
TOTAL	\$1570

Conclusions

The all-breed trailing/tracking seminar should prove to be a valuable experience to help in the scent-specific trailing training of K9 Bean and the overall knowledge of Reserve K9 Officer Stejskal. If needed, please feel free to reach out if there are any questions or more information needed.