

# **Craig Police Department Canine Team Proposal**

*Corporal Grant Laehr*

It is no secret that Craig, much like the rest of our nation, has a growing drug problem. The recent news of the increasing opiate epidemic is a great concern to our community. I have personally witnessed lives ruined and families being torn apart by illegal drugs. I have made it a personal priority to be an active part of drug enforcement in the City of Craig. There has been a gap in our ability to investigate and enforce drug crimes since our previous canine handler, Cpl Alvin Luker, left our department in August of 2017. I would like to fill that spot.

The re-addition of a canine team to our community will send a message to the people we serve that we are taking the drug problem seriously. Studies show citizens feel an increase in personal security with a canine presence in the community. Canines have also been effective in promoting interaction with the public at schools, events, and other day to day contacts, especially since adults and children alike love animals. A canine team is a great way to send a proactive message to the young people of Craig by displaying the capabilities of a drug detection dog, helping to bridge the gap between the youth and Craig Police. We can send a positive life saving message to these young citizens and maintain that connection into adulthood, when they become the leaders in our community.

It is my intention to be responsible for adding a drug detection canine team to our department. This process generally takes 9-12 months before the canine and trainer are ready to be deployed. The following is a proposal including cost and some details for adding a police canine team back to our department and community.

## **Canine**

- Cost of dog \$3,500-\$4,000 (one time)
  - A dog will be selected from a reputable kennel and breeder to ensure good pedigree, mitigating unforeseen potential health problems caused by breeding.
- The dog will be trained from a puppy
  - This is the most cost effective and strengthens the handler-dog relationship making a more effective team.
  - Raising and training takes about 9-12 months before the dog is ready to work.
- Working life is typically about 6-8 years.

## **Training**

- Most training can be done on duty as time and call loads permit.
- Deputy Sgt. Courtland Folks with the Moffat County Sheriff's office has agreed to train me as a handler and the dog up to the point it can be certified and is ready to work. He has agreed to make the initial purchase of the dog and house it in his kennels during initial training. The dog would then be "sold" to the department and I would assume care and responsibility.
- Ongoing joint trainings and refreshers will be done throughout the year.
- Certification \$80 annually

### Veterinarian

- Annual vaccinations and care about \$300-500
- Administered by a local veterinary hospital in Craig

### Equipment

- To outfit an existing or new vehicle with new equipment the cost is about the same, \$4,982.33 (installed)
  - Includes transport kennel, kennel cooling system and alert pager for if the vehicle exceeds safe temperatures for the dog. *This cost could be eliminated or drastically reduced if existing equipment were moved into an existing vehicle. (the cooling system and alert system may need to be updated.*
- Leashes, collar, harnesses bowls ect., and other training equipment \$300-\$500
- Outdoor secured kennel with heated house
  - 5x10x6' lockable metal fenced enclosure \$560
  - Dog house with heated pad \$300

### Other

- Food, about \$480 annually.
- Handler will receive 2 hours comp time per week as compensation for general ongoing care, grooming and housing of the canine.

**Cost matrix**

Item	Budget Year	One time cost	Annual cost
Canine	2020	\$3,500-\$4,000	
Food	Yearly		\$480
Vet Services	Yearly		\$300-500
Training/Certifications	Yearly		\$80
Vehicle equipment	2019	\$4,982 if needed	
Leash , collars and other equipment	2019	\$300-\$500	
Kennel (5x10x6) chain link kennel with heated dog house enclose.	2019	\$860	
Handler Compensation	Yearly		2 hours per week comp time (\$2,080 if paid out)
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$9,642-\$10,342</b>	<b>\$860-\$3,140</b>

I have reviewed our department's policy and requirements for working canines and handler. I meet the qualifications to become a canine handler and can facilitate the housing, care, training and other responsibilities outlined in the policy. I have also discussed it with my family and we are all prepared and excited to take on the responsibility, and look forward to having a working canine as a part of our family.

I would like to note that we are extremely fortunate to have a proven police canine trainer and handler in our community. Sgt Folks trained the last drug detecting canine, "Thunder", for our

police department. Thunder proved to be a valuable and reliable asset to our police department. Sgt Folks believes it is important to have police canines in our community and has agreed to help me and our department with this project. This relationship will make this process extremely cost productive and virtually seamless when the time comes that the drug canine is ready to work. The alternative would require 6 week vocational training and about \$30,000+ in cost to the department for the dog and training alone.

I look forward to speaking with you further and answering any questions about this proposal, as well as, present my proposal to City Council, City Manager Brixius and/or Mayor Ponikvar.

Thank you for your consideration.

Corporal Grant Laehr  
Craig Police Department