

Mr. Stieha,

The purpose of our funding request deals with our Police K-9 program. Our program was initiated a decade ago with assistance from the Helen Close Foundation. During that time, our K-9 dogs and handlers have been utilized primarily in handler protection, narcotics detection, and article searches. This has become a truly vital program for our Department, saving many man-hours and reducing officer exposure in hazardous situations.

We have a new need for an additional K9 position which would bring the total K9s at Sparks Police Department to three. The Sparks Police Department has recently promoted one of the two current K9s to the detective division along with the current handler. The detective assignment is to the regional Crime Suppression Team which is charged with identifying felony crime trends throughout the valley and arresting the suspects in those crime trends. This is commonly related to the most violent criminals in our community and the value of a K9 in this program is immeasurable.

This created a K9 position in the patrol division and created a new need as the police department previously had two K9s in operation. It is vital to the success of the mission of the Sparks Police Department as we serve our approximately 96,000 citizens and countless more visitors to return the compliment of the K9s assigned to the patrol division back to two due to the exceptional officer safety and time saving benefits of a K9 team. The K9s are not only utilized in the patrol function related to suspect apprehension, evidence location and narcotics detection but spend a significant amount of time involved with community relations throughout the community involving several non-profits, civic groups, schools and businesses by providing demonstrations and education on the K9 program.

The critical measure of our program is exemplified by a few examples identified below:

In September of 2006, Jacob Smith, who was wanted for Murder and considered armed, was under surveillance. He was able to elude the Officers and hid in a neighborhood. He was located and the K9 apprehended him without officers ever leaving their protective cover.

In July of 2008, Officers were chasing a known gang member with a violent history who had a warrant for Sexual Assault. The subject eluded Officers near the Truckee River and was seen jumping into the river to escape. This is a very dangerous scenario as the equipment we wear puts us a distinct disadvantage during a physical conflict in the water. The K-9 was able to catch the subject and apprehend him without Officers engaging in a struggle while in the water.

On May 10, 2014 officers were dispatched to the Western Village Casino in reference to a report of a wanted suspect on scene at the casino. The subject had cautions for a history of obstructing law enforcement, violent tendencies, known to be armed and dangerous, and known to carry concealed weapons. Officers advised by radio that the last time police dealt with the suspect he had engaged four officers in a fight during an arrest. The suspect had previously barricaded himself in his residence and made threats to law enforcement as well as indicated he wanted to harm himself. The K9 team located the suspect who took off running. The K9 apprehended the suspect who actively fought the K9, which remained on the bite until officers could take him into

custody without further incident.

On September 27, 2014 a K9 team covered a patrol officer on a traffic stop. After initial contact and suspicions of drug use the K9 was deployed for a drug sniff of the vehicle and immediately provided clues indicating the existence of drugs or drug paraphernalia in the vehicle. At the completion of the search of the vehicle approximately 142 grams of methamphetamine was located, a truly substantial amount for a routine traffic stop.

The man hours saved and the added safety provided to our Officers in just these few incidents are indescribable. These examples also exemplify the danger towards the community as a whole were these subjects not apprehended.

Our K9 teams are more than just a law enforcement tool. Our teams have been and will continue to be great community engagement tools. Our handlers have done more than 80 demonstrations for schools, community groups and more since 2013. These demonstrations display the control the handler has with their K9 as well as the abilities of the team. Further, in this time of strained law enforcement/public relations they provide an outstanding opportunity for officers and the community to interact in a positive manner. These demonstrations are in addition to their normal work shifts.

Our K9 teams are not just assets for the City of Sparks but for the entire Truckee Meadows community as they routinely provide additional coverage to other law enforcement agencies throughout the region. We work with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, the Reno Police Department, the Nevada Highway Patrol and several federal agencies.

The Sparks Police Department has received funding from your foundation for four other dogs who have all become some of the most successful and well-known dogs in the valley. The current cost of a new K9 is \$10,250 and the training related to the K9 is an additional \$27,490.

The Sparks Police Department has not been provided funds from the City of Sparks to specifically purchase a K9 as this is a new need, hence the request for the funds for the purchase. The Police Department will be paying all costs associated to the handler position, the equipment and the vehicle needed for this new K9 and handler. The Police Department will be paying for all necessary medical care/maintenance for the lifetime of the dog. The training related to a new K9 is extensive and occurs in two phases during a six-month period at which time the K9 and handler are required to spend six weeks during each training phase at the training center in Southern California.

There are several costs related to the replacement of a K-9/handler team. The breakdown of those costs is as follows:

New Dog	\$10000
Canine Surcharge/Licensing	\$250
Patrol School (six weeks)	\$5000
Lodging during school	\$4000
Per Diem (\$71 per day)	\$3195

Narcotics Detection School (six weeks)	\$5000
Lodging during school	\$4000
Per Diem (\$71 per day)	\$3195
Bullet Resistant Vest	\$1500
Callout Vest (Handler)	\$1200
Muzzle	\$300
Leashes	\$100
Total (approximate)	\$37,740

Our Department sincerely appreciates any and all consideration of this request. Again, please feel free to contact me at any of the below listed contacts.

Please find attached budgetary information for our Department for fiscal year 2016-2017. Our fiscal year begins in July and ends in June. Please let me know if that information does not meet the requirements of your request. Finally, we have also approached the E.L. Cord Foundation as another funding source.

Respectfully submitted,

Lt. Pete Krall
Sparks Police Department

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