



## DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

730 Center Street  
Racine, Wisconsin 53403-1186  
(262) 635-7700

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** CHIEF HOWELL Date 1/21/2019  
**FROM:** LIEUTENANT SMITH Under Report No. \_\_\_\_\_

*Subject: Acquisition of K-9 Maxx*

As has been communicated over the past few years, the vision for our K-9 Unit has been and continues to be that of a leading example on what a self-sustaining, highly effective K-9 Unit should be. I believe that we have worked to achieve that by assigning a K-9 Unit supervisor, adding additional criteria to handler selection, expansion of the K-9 Unit to include (5) dual purpose patrol dogs, flex scheduling to provide more efficient coverage based on need, a social media component that has allowed for exceptional community support, the trainer certification title for Ofc. Beal and most recently the beta field testing of K-9 Dixie.

In 2017, the department acquired K-9 Dixie from Ofc. Beal through his personally held business, Patriot K-9 LLC. This was done for the purpose of proofing through training and deployment and as such, K-9 Dixie did in fact prove to be highly effective in the field. As was previously described, we were able to eliminate the "baggage" that may come along with canines acquired through common vendors. The beta test, as anticipated provided us with a "cleaner" product that we can be extremely confident with in the field.

At the end of 2018, in anticipation of the retirement of K-9 Dozer, I began the process of vetting potential replacement canines for our agency. In concert with Sgt. Melby and Ofc. Beal, a 20 month old German Shepherd by the name of "Maxx" was identified as a viable option. Maxx is owned by Patriot K-9 LLC and is registered with the American Kennel Club. Maxx has been trained towards the PSP1 (patrol) and PSP2 (narcotic) standards through Patriot K9 LLC and is certified for full patrol applicable deployment. The cost for Maxx through Patriot K-9 LLC is \$4000.00 which is far below the market value for a trained, certified and fully deployable young dog. The handler training was conducted in-house as proposed and even further reduced the overall cost of acquiring a new canine. As it is well known, our agency traditionally spent upwards of \$16,000.00 for the purchase of a dual purpose patrol dog and eight weeks of handler training. The additional cost of per diem, fuel and lodging could easily push this number to \$20,000.00.

As is already known, Ofc. Beal currently possesses certification in PSP (Polizeispuehundpruefung). PSP is recognized internationally in 50 countries and is the standard that our department has been utilizing to maintain certification of our current canines. Ofc. Beal is recognized by UTAH P.O.S.T. as a certifier which has allowed our department to maintain certification of our canines. As I have stated in the past, none of our prior canine vendors has held this or any certification. As there is no current federal or state standard requirement to possess a certification such as this, the civil liability arena is where this comes into play. The vendors generally rely on

their years of dog training experience and the fact that they own a canine business as a means to insulate their product from liability, however as you can imagine if there is a bad bite the vendor will stand behind the dog they sold and not handler actions or any other variety of circumstances. The vendors generally train to one of the several recognized standards such as PSP but generally hold not actual title as Ofc. Beal now does. In essence we currently have a stronger certification platform than any of our prior vendors do making the acquisition from Patriot K-9 the logical decision.

We as an organization have been fortunate to have an exceptional group of handlers that have truly taken ownership of the K-9 Unit and have a passion for the position that they hold. These Officers invest a great deal of time training and making certain that the dogs are performing optimally in the field. The handlers and I are confident that continuing with the proposed in-house training of new patrol dogs is not only a better financial decision but this will also continue to provide our agency with a better overall product. The cost savings alone of purchasing our dogs through Patriot K-9 LLC would amount to in excess of \$12,000.00 per K-9 team. I feel that our agency can sustain multiple K-9 units for years to come, as both the system of training and the vendor choice that I am proposing are affordable, sustainable and achievable.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lieutenant Smith