



# City of Winooski

Vermont's Opportunity City

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<b>Agenda Item</b>	K9
<b>Date</b>	January 23, 2023
<b>Submitting Department</b>	Police
<b>Recommended Action</b>	Approve K9 program
<b>Strategic Vision Area and Strategy</b>	All
<b>Expenditure Required</b> (amount and source)	\$22,000, Asset Forfeiture revenues
<b>Background Information</b>	<p>A K9, or police dog, is a useful patrol multiplier and also a very popular community outreach program. The Winooski Police Department is proposing to bring one K9 into the department to do work like tracking and clearing buildings.</p> <p>In addition to adding direct services for the community, a K9 also helps the community indirectly by helping with police employee retention. Generally, creating and sustaining job opportunities and assignments for our current employees is essential to maintaining job satisfaction. Adding a K9 provides an assignment that doesn't take away from the basic patrol/emergency response function. At our current staffing level, this is one of the few assignments we can provide that still keeps the number of (human) patrol officers the same.</p> <p>The pandemic created a unique opportunity to transition and upfit a low mileage 2020 vehicle from our current fleet utilizing asset forfeiture funds, and dedicate it to the K9 program without needing to purchase an additional vehicle outside of our annual capital purchase, or ask for any additional funding.</p> <p>The 'start up' costs for this program, \$22,000, can be covered entirely from Asset Forfeiture revenue from the Drug Enforcement Administration. Ongoing costs in other communities is about \$2,000.</p> <p>The next opportunity to join a K9 school is in June, and the officer would need six months to bond with the dog beforehand, so we are asking for Council approval now for the program.</p>
<b>Supporting Documents</b>	None

<b>Interested Parties</b>	All residents and persons doing business in the City.
<b>City Manager Approval</b>	