



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Councilors

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Chief of Police

DATE: June 16, 2015

RE: Consideration - Authorization to Submit Application to Vested Interest in K-9's for Three Ballistic K-9 Vests

BACKGROUND:

The Elizabeth City Police Department is continually seeking grant funding opportunities from outside sources that will enhance operations and further the department's mission of the pursuit of excellence. In keeping with this practice of seeking grant funding opportunities, the Elizabeth City Police Department wishes to submit an application to the Vested Interest in K-9's Inc. to outfit the three canines of the Department in ballistic K-9 vests. The Department purchased the three newest canines in 2013; the canines are Duke, Karma, and Colt. The K-9 Unit plays an integral part of daily operations and this funding opportunity for vests would be very beneficial. There are no matching costs required and funding is on a first come, first serve basis; therefore, submission of a timely application is highly recommended to take advantage of this opportunity.

ANALYSIS:

The mission of the non-profit, Vested Interest in K-9's, Inc., is to spread awareness about and raise much needed funds to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to canine partners of law enforcement. The 501(c)(3), Massachusetts-based organization offers the vests at no cost to the eligible agencies.

To be eligible, agencies must provide copies of the K-9's current certification, demonstrate that the K-9 Team is certified and actively used, and that the K-9 is at least 19 months of age. All of the Elizabeth City Police Department's canines and their handlers meet and exceed the qualifications as specified. The Department shall agree to disseminate "press releases" upon being awarded vest(s).

FINANCIAL:

The Finance Committee is scheduled to discuss this matter during their meeting of June 22, 2015 at 6 p.m.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, approve the Elizabeth City Police Department's submission of a grant application to Vested Interest in K-9's Inc. for consideration to be awarded three (3) ballistic K-9 vests.

RCO/vdw