



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Councilors

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

DATE: April 18, 2013

REF: Consideration - Recommendation to Retire K-9 "Buck"

BACKGROUND:

In March 2013, the Elizabeth City Police Department purchased three new canines and began the process of training the dogs with their newly assigned ECPD K-9 Handlers. With the purchase of the new canines, the Department is now ready to retire its oldest canine member, "Buck" who is 8 years old and has been with the Department for the last seven years. It is recommended that Buck cease to perform his law enforcement duties (i.e. searches, tracking, etc.) due to his age and medical condition. Current K-9 Handler Officer D.S. Sutton has expressed an interest in purchasing canine Buck, who he will keep as the family's pet and no longer use for the administering of police duties. Staff recommends that the City of Elizabeth City sell canine Buck to Officer Sutton for \$1.00, and by doing so, surplus the dog and remove from ECPD's roster.

ANALYSIS:

Officer David Sutton has been assigned to canine Buck for the last two years, after his previous handler resigned from the Elizabeth City Police Department. Buck has been a valuable member of the Police Department; however, after having been used as a working dog for the past seven years, he has now surpassed his time and usefulness as a police canine. At this stage in his life, it would be difficult for Buck to adapt to a new environment. If purchased by Officer Sutton, Buck would be accepted as the family pet and treated as such. He would be given a safe environment to live out the remainder of his days. For this reason, it is recommended that the City of Elizabeth City surplus this canine by selling the dog to K-9 Handler Officer David Sutton.

The Finance Committee discussed this matter during their meeting of April 17, 2013 and recommends approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the City Manager to remove K-9 Buck from service; and further, authorize the sale of the dog to Officer David Sutton for \$1.00.

RCO/vdw

RESOLUTION
Authorizing the City Manager to Remove
a Police Canine from Service

WHEREAS, the City of Elizabeth City owns a black and tan in color German Shepard breed dog named Buck who has served as a canine officer for the police department; and

WHEREAS, canine officer Buck's medical condition is such that he should be retired from service; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 160A-266(c) permits the City of Elizabeth City to discard any personal property that is determined to have no value; and

WHEREAS, while canine officer Buck's service to our police department and our City cannot be adequately valued in monetary terms, his age and medical condition place him beyond the ability to consider asking a monetary amount for his adoption.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY OF ELIZABETH CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES THAT:

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City authorizes the City Manager to transfer ownership of such canine to such person or agency who in the Manager's sole discretion believes capable of providing the best care for such canine and upon such terms and conditions that the Manager shall determine.

Resolved in regular session, this 22nd day of April 2013.

Joseph W. Peel
Mayor

Dianne S. Pierce-Tamplen, MMC
City Clerk