

**COUNTY OF SONOMA
AGENDA ITEM
SUMMARY REPORT**

Clerk of the Board Use Only
Meeting Date **Held Until**
 / / / /
Agenda Item No: **Agenda Item No:**

Department: Sheriff's Office

() **4/5 Vote Required**

Contact:
Sgt. Chris Bertoli

Phone:
(707) 565-5441

Board Date:
9/22/09

Deadline for Board Action:

AGENDA SHORT TITLE:

Agreement for Law Enforcement Canine Training Services

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

Approve and authorize the Sheriff to execute the Agreement for Law Enforcement Canine Training Services with Master K-9 for the period October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$88,300 and any amendments and modifications to the Agreement that do not substantially change the content thereof and are in accordance with County Counsel contract exemption policy.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

EXPENDITURES

ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD

Estimated Cost \$ 26,170

Contingencies \$
(Fund Name:)

Amount Budgeted \$ 26,170

Unanticipated Revenue \$
(Source:)

Other Avail Approp.
(Explain below)

Other Transfer(s) \$
(Source:)

Additional Requested: \$ 0

Add'l Funds Requested: \$

Explanation (if required):

Prior Board Action(s):

11/6/07: Board approved and authorized the Sheriff to execute the Amendment to the Agreement for Law Enforcement canine Training Services with Master K-9.

9/26/07: Board approved the Agreement with Master K-9 for Narcotics Canine Training Services.

6/15/06: Board authorized the Sheriff to execute up to two, one-year extensions to the Agreement for Patrol Canine Training Services with Jamarck's K-9 Cops.

9/30/03: Board approved the Agreement for Patrol Canine Training Services with Jamarck's K-9 Cops.

Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval:

If the Agreement is not approved, there will be a disruption in critical canine training services and an increase the County's exposure to liability.

Background: (on file with clerk: Agreement for Law Enforcement Canine Training Services)

HISTORY

The Sheriff's Office has had a master protection canine program in Patrol for over 30 years. Canine trainers are responsible for training canines and their respective deputy handlers. Canines, handlers, and trainers are not interchangeable. Different trainers have different police dog training philosophies and their own unique training style and methods. Handlers are responsible for developing a successful relationship with their assigned canines. A handler and canine train together as a unit; trainers teach the handler and canine to respond to law enforcement scenarios as a unit.

From 1973 to 2007, master protection canine services were provided by Jamarck. Jamarck trained six canine teams including the Patrol Bureau's three resident deputies on the coast. In October 2003, the Sheriff's Office issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to ten vendors to ensure that the County was receiving the most professional, cost-effective services. Upon formal evaluation of the five proposals received, Jamarck was determined to be the recommended vendor. The last Agreement for Canine Law Enforcement Training Services with Jamarck was set to expire on September, 30, 2007, however Jamarck's owner terminated the Agreement early on September 2, 2007.

In addition to the master protection program, the Sheriff's Office maintains a narcotics canine program. The narcotics detection canines assist officers in locating hidden narcotics during patrol stops and search warrants. Master K-9 has provided narcotics canine training to the Sheriff's Office since 1995. The Sheriff's Office purchased one detection dog in 1995 and another in 2004. In September 2006, the Sheriff's Office issued an RFP to assess available providers of these services and to ensure that the County was receiving the most professional, cost-effective services. No proposals were received in response to the RFP.

There are very few providers of police dog training. The Sheriff's Office's expanded the scope of services of its agreement with Master K-9 to include master protection training based on: the lack of response to the 2006 narcotics canine training RFP; Jamarck's early termination of the master protection training agreement; the vendor's past performance; the Town of Windsor's success contracting for both services with Master K-9 for, at the time, over a year; the performance of the existing Master K-9 trained canines; and the vendor's shared training philosophies and methods.

Attachments:

On File With Clerk:

Agreement for Law Enforcement Canine Training Services

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote:

Background (Continued):

The combination of Master K-9's high quality canines and effective canine and handler training have resulted in a greater number of detections, drug seizures, money seizures, surrenders, and greater usage of the canines in general. Since the majority of law enforcement agencies in Sonoma County also contract with Master K-9 for canine training services, Sheriff's Office dog handlers called in to provide canine support or Sheriff's Office deputies who request canine support benefit from the shared training philosophy and methods.

FISCAL IMPACT

The three-year fiscal impact of the proposed new agreement with Master K-9 reflects an increase in the rates for monthly canine maintenance training. From September 1, 2006 through September 30, 2009, monthly training rates did not increase and were \$110 per canine per month. The monthly rate for maintenance training under the proposed new agreement is \$150 per canine, per month for the three-year period (\$59,400 total). The new rate is a 36% increase from the previous monthly rate, or an average annual increase of 12% for the three-year term of the Agreement. The total cost of monthly training for the three-year period of the proposed new Agreement will increase by \$15,840. We believe the increase is reasonable based on a number of factors including; the exceptional quality of training provided, the positive experience we have had with Master K-9, the lower than market rates obtained in the previous agreement with Master K-9, a comparison of the proposed Master K-9 rate to the previous vendors rates, and confirmation that these rates are the rates being charged in the current canine training market.

Other local agencies without three-year agreements have been paying the \$150 rate for over a year. For 11 canines at \$150 per month (\$1,650 per month), the Sheriff's Office is paying \$350 per month less than the rate charged by its former police dog trainer Jamarck. From July 2003 to August 2007, Jamarck charged \$2,000 per month to train 6 canines for the majority of the Agreement, or \$333 per canine, per month (\$286 per canine, per month for 7 canines in the last year of the Agreement). The Sheriff's Office currently budgets for 8 master protection canines in its Patrol Bureau and 2 narcotics detection canines in its Investigations Bureau. One master protection canine is budgeted in the Windsor index as part of the Town of Windsor's Law Enforcement Services Agreement.

A maximum of \$1,500 per year is budgeted to reimburse the trainer for travel expenses from Master K-9's offices in Cherry Valley, California to Santa Rosa. This amount remains unchanged from the previous agreement. A total of \$8,000 is included in the Agreement for new handler training and will be billed only in the event that this training is required. Each New Handler training session costs \$4,000, a \$500 increase from the previous agreement. The total number of approved handlers in the program is not expected to change, however this training would be required in the event of personnel changes or canine changes due to health issues. \$16,400 is included in the Agreement in the event that it becomes necessary to purchase new canines. Since all the canines were purchased through Master K-9 in 2008, no canine replacements are expected. The cost of two new canines is included in the event canines are replaced during the 3-year term of the Agreement.

Total expenses under this Agreement will not exceed \$88,300 over the three-year period. The Town of Windsor is responsible for \$5,400 of the total amount. Program costs for FY 10-11 and FY 11-12 will be included in FY 10-11 and FY 11-12 budget requests.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve and authorize the Sheriff to execute the Agreement for Law Enforcement Canine Training Services with Master K-9 for the period October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$88,300 and any amendments and modifications to the Agreement that do not substantially change the content thereof and are in accordance with County Counsel contract exemption policy.