

OFFICE of SHERIFF  
CLARKE COUNTY, IOWA

Rob Kovacevich, Sheriff  
Lucas Darby, Chief Deputy

220 Townline Road, PO Box 537  
Osceola, IA 50213

Phone: (641) 342-2914  
Fax: (641) 342-4071  
Emergency: 911

Jodi Carson  
Office Manager

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to send and share this proposal as I know that your time is valuable. I have taken responsibility to continue the Sheriff's K-9 program. The current goal to continue this program is to raise the necessary funds to purchase a new K-9, and also to train myself and of course the K-9. My activities are at the discretion of the Sheriff of Clarke County.

I was hired with the City of Chariton Police Department in July of 2015 and attended the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy's 264<sup>th</sup> basic academy class and graduated 13<sup>th</sup> of a class of 43 students. I worked with the City of Chariton until February of 2016, when an opportunity to join the Clarke County Sheriff's Office presented itself. Given the opportunity to serve my home town and county, I applied and started my career at the end of February 2016.

During my time with the Clarke County Sheriff's Office, encounters with illegal narcotics and people that are under the influence of these substances are a daily occurrence. And not only for me, but fellow officers and the citizens of the community we serve. Drug addiction affects us all, whether it someone that we know that is struggling with drugs, or the thefts, assaults, or operating while under the influence of these substances.

One of the main objectives of the Sheriff's Office is interdicting in the possession and the distribution of controlled substances. This is a tall order for any department to fight this battle alone.

A K-9 officer serves the community in several ways including but not limited to narcotics detection, fugitive tracking and apprehension, search and rescue operations, and educational applications in conjunction with the D.A.R.E. program.

Our community is unique as it has Interstate 35 running through the heart of the county. Also, there are two major highways, 34 and 69 that traverses the county. It is a well-known fact that illegal drugs and also illegitimate currency are transported along these thorough fares. Of which a detection K-9 is imperative.

"Diesel", the current K-9 been retired and has been an invaluable asset to the community for the last approximately nine years. Diesel was partnered with Chief Deputy Lucas Darby. During this time Chief Deputy Darby has deployed Diesel for missing persons, tracking of suspects, D.A.R.E. class presentation, and open-air search of Murray and Clarke Schools and also of course open-air searches to establish probable cause in searching for illegal drugs in vehicles.

Clarke County has for as long as Diesel has been in service, participated in the 28E agreement which provides law enforcement with the authority to cross county lines to assist neighboring jurisdictions with any activities mentioned above. Diesel has assisted our neighbors on several occasions as described above.

The Clarke County Sheriff's Office does its best to battle the drug problem in the community. From 01/01/2013 to the present day the Clarke County Sheriff's Office has made approximately 267 narcotics arrests. Chief Deputy Darby has led the charge in this effort with about 117 arrests. The large percentage of Chief Deputy Darby's arrests is undoubtedly a direct result of his K-9 partner's ability to detect these substances where a human cannot.

The efforts that are made by The Clarke County Sheriff's Office to interdict in drug possession are difficult and change with every Supreme Court Ruling that affects the laws of search and seizure. Case law that determines when officers can go inside a vehicle to search has been going against law enforcement, making the deployment of a K-9 for probable cause searches extremely commonplace.

Clarke County has limited funding that cannot support the purchase of a K-9. Our office is responsible for maintaining the Clarke County Jail, staffing 24 hours a day and 7 days a week and fulfilling the obligations

of the office of the Sheriff which of course costs money. The Sheriff's Office has the ability to support the program by supplying the K-9 with food and vetting services. The Sheriff's Office allocates all available funding to update our vehicle fleet and other equipment such as tasers, hand held PBT's, bullet resistant vests and maintaining the mandatory in-service training required by the State of Iowa.

I have personally lobbied for the opportunity and responsibility to serve as the K-9 handler in Clarke County. Since my assignment as a patrol deputy I have made approximately 60 narcotics arrests. I have made several felony arrests resulting in large amounts of methamphetamine, marijuana and prescription medications being seized and used to aid in criminal prosecution. I have also made several arrests where individuals are operating under the influence of drugs. I believe that with the aid of a K-9, I can increase this statistic, as Chief Deputy Darby has done.

I am collecting contributions from our valued businesses in the community for the purchase of the K-9, necessary equipment also training of the K-9 and myself as the handler. This is going to be a huge undertaking; however, I want the very best for the community that I serve. And I know that with your help, this goal will be met in the time needed. This effort is a community effort and I hope that you can join me in this campaign to combat this growing drug problem, and also to have the resources to respond to emergencies in the community.

I have acquired several quotes for dual purpose K-9's. I have selected Canine Tactical located in Chariton Iowa to purchase our next K-9 and receive the required training. The close proximity will assist in the 5-week training that I will be required to attend to become certified to handle a K-9. And also the ongoing, annual recertification of our K-9 and handler.

The amount that I must raise is \$16,900 this is a complete cost, as I mentioned the County will continue to feed and provide medical care for the K-9. My goal is to raise \$5,000 to pay to Canine Tactical for an initial deposit; this will also secure a slot April 1<sup>st</sup> 2019, for the next training session. Any funds raised that are in addition to the initial costs will either be spent to up-fit my patrol vehicle with a K-9 cage, and/or a ballistic vest for the K-9 at the cost of \$2,000. These items are not required to the program.

I look forward to sharing the progress and successes of your Sheriff's Office. I know that you work hard for your money and you can count on me as your K-9 handler to continue to work hard for you!

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share this proposal with you as again I know that your time is extremely valuable.

Respectfully,

Deputy Brian Akers 20-5

All donations and contributions to this program can be mailed to the Clarke County Sheriff's Office located at 220 Townline Road, Osceola Ia 50213. If you have any questions and/or would like me to stop in to answer any further questions, please feel free to give me a call. 641-414-4719.