



# MEMORANDUM

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TO: Members of the Finance Committee

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

DATE: September 8, 2015

REF: Consideration ~ Authorization to Accept K-9 Vested Grant Award

***BACKGROUND:***

The Elizabeth City Police Department, in its on-going quest to seek grant funding opportunities from outside sources that will enhance operations and further the department's mission of the pursuit of excellence, submitted an application to the Vested Interest in K-9's, Inc. in June 2015 in an effort to acquire bulletproof vests for the department's canine members. The Elizabeth City Police Department received written notification earlier in August 2015 that the grant has been awarded. For this particular grant, there are no matching funds required on the City's part, as the K-9 Vested Program provides 100% funding towards the purchase of the ballistic/bulletproof vests.

***ANALYSIS:***

The Elizabeth City Police Department's K-9 Unit plays an integral part in daily operations, as the department's three (3) canine members assist in drug seizures and trackings on a daily basis. 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 501c3, Massachusetts-based organization offers the vests at no cost to the eligible agencies.

To be eligible to make application for this particular grant, the department had to provide copies of current K-9 certifications for Duke, Colt, and Karma; demonstrate that the K-9 Team is certified and actively used; and that the K-9's are all at least 19 months of age. All of the Elizabeth City Police Department's canines and their handlers meet

and exceed the qualifications specified. This grant, which was on a "first come, first served" basis, was awarded to the Elizabeth City Police Department in August 2015. Vests are valued at \$1,050.00 each, for a total value of \$3,150.00 in cost-free equipment. As part of the guidelines for award recipients, the Elizabeth City Police Department agrees to disseminate press releases upon being awarded the vests.

***STAFF RECOMMENDATION:***

By motion, recommend that the City Council approve the Elizabeth City Police Department's acceptance of the Vested Interest in K-9's, Inc. grant for the receipt of three ballistic/bulletproof canine vests to be used by the Elizabeth City Police Department's K-9 Unit.