



# MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

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

Date: July 19, 2019

Subject: Consideration – Authorize Canine Replacement/Restructuring Including Purchase of Two New Canines, Donation of a Third Canine, and Retirement of ECPD K-9 Colt

## ***BACKGROUND:***

Since the late 1980's, the Elizabeth City Police Department has had at least one working canine as a member of the agency, to assist with trackings, searches, and other public safety functions and police duties. Over the years, the Department has undergone restructuring changes; currently, the total allotment for canines is three, all of which are assigned to the Field Operations Division. Canines are a very important component to any law enforcement agency in that they increase the effectiveness of the department's overall mission to detect and apprehend illegal narcotics, as well as provide community service benefits when used to locate missing individuals such as children and the elderly.

In September/October 2014, the Department acquired three new working dogs: Colt, Duke, and Karma. Duke worked almost four years, retiring in June 2018; and Karma was soon to follow, retiring in November 2018. Currently, only K-9 Colt is left in the Field Operations Division. The FY2019-2020 budget included a request to purchase two new canines and the training needed to train two handlers; a total cost of \$19,000.00. It is important to note that prior to submitting the budget proposal, the Department did seek an outside grant funding source (the National Police Dog Foundation), but was unsuccessful in acquiring funds to purchase a dog or dogs through this means.

With the approval of the FY2019-2020 budget, the Police Department was allotted \$19,000 in the Capital Outlay line item for the purchase of two new canines, and the training needed for assigned canine handlers. As has been the average amount allotted for each year for the past many years, the Department was also approved \$5,500.00 for dog/canine related expenses, including food, vet visits, and supplies. In addition to the two canines being sought for purchase with budgetary funding, the Department has the opportunity to receive an additional third canine at no cost. The Department is

seeking City Council's permission to accept the donation of the third canine, which will occur at the time the other two canines are purchased. All three dogs and designated handlers will receive training at the same time, allowing the dogs to all go into operation together.

As stated above, the only K-9 currently on the force is Colt. Colt has now served a total of five years as a working dog and is ready to retire. Additionally, he is experiencing health issues with one of his back legs. The Department is requesting that Colt retire from the Elizabeth City Police Department on August 1, 2019; and be allowed to be purchased by his K-9 handler for the amount of \$1.00.

***ANALYSIS:***

The cost breakdown to purchase two new canines, as approved in the FY2019-2020 Budget, is as follows:

Quantity	Description	Unit Price	Total
2	Police Canines, Tracking, Article Search, and Narcotic Search – CANINE To Be Matched With Canine Handler Prior to Start of Training	\$6,500.00	\$13,000.00
2	Training for Canine Handler	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00

**GRAND TOTAL: \$19,000.00**

The associated training for the canine handlers described above in the matrix above requires the officer to train with the newly acquired canine in narcotics detection; tracking, and obedience. It is important to note that canine handlers have already been selected and are enrolled to begin classes in August 2019. It takes 12 weeks to complete all required training and become a certified K-9 Handler.

In addition to the new police canines listed above, the Department will receive a third canine at no cost from the vendor. The police canine is a 2-year-old yellow Labrador retriever named Hulk, who is already certified. Hulk has not been trained as a bite canine; therefore, he can be taken to public events for community relations and utilized in crowded public areas for narcotics detection. Hulk will be assigned to a handler and the handler will receive free training.

The chart below reflects the costs of the new canines in their first year of service with the Elizabeth City Police Department. The new canines will need a dog kennel with

shade cover, stones for the base pad, indoor dog crate, harnesses, leashes, and other necessities.

<u>Item Description</u>	<u>Yearly Costs</u>
Dog Food	\$450.00
Veterinarian Check-Up	\$135.00
Heartworm Preventative Medication	\$100.00
Flea and Tick Treatment	\$250.00
Canine Dog House	\$125.00
Canine Dog Crate	\$100.00
Canine Harness, Collar, Etc.	\$125.00
Paver Stone for Canine Kennel Pad	\$200.00
Dog Kennel and Shade Cover	\$300.00

Total estimated first-year (FY2019-2020) cost per canine is \$1,785.00.

Total estimated first-year (FY2019-2020) cost for all three canines is \$5,355.00.

The chart below reflects the reoccurring costs for each subsequent year of service for each canine (FY2020-2021, FY2021-2022, continuing years/etc.):

<u>Item Description</u>	<u>Reoccurring Costs</u>
Dog Food	\$450.00
Veterinarian Check-Up	\$135.00
Heartworm Preventative Medication	\$132.00
Flea and Tick Treatment	\$312.00
7-day Boarding for Handler Vacation	\$140.00

Total estimated reoccurring costs per canine is \$1,169.00.

Total estimated reoccurring costs for all three canines is \$3,507.00.

The Elizabeth City Police Department has budgetary funding to cover all canine related expenses and associated training of handlers, as well as necessities needed to food/house/care for the dogs. The Department is seeking City Council's approval in moving forward with the purchase of the two new canines, which would also allow for the donation of a third canine at no added cost. Additionally, the Department would like to retire Colt and allow his current owner to purchase him at a cost of \$1.00.

***FINANCIAL:***

The Finance Committee discussed this matter during its July 18, 2019 meeting. Upon motion made by Councilwoman Young, seconded by Councilman Horton, the Committee unanimously recommended approval by the City Council.

***STAFF RECOMMENDATION:***

By motion, approve donation of K-9 Hulk as a member of the Elizabeth City Police Department; and adopt the attached resolution for K-9 member Colt to be surplus, thereby allowing him to be purchased by his handler for the amount of \$1.00.



**RESOLUTION #2019-07-02**  
**Authorizing the City Manager to Remove**  
**a Police Canine from Service**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Elizabeth City owns a police canine named Colt who has served as a canine officer for the Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, canine officer Colt has served the department for five working years, and having developed continuous medical conditions, such that the department feels 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 Colt's service to our Police Department and our City cannot be adequately valued in monetary terms, his age and highly-trained background places him beyond the ability to consider asking a monetary amount for his adoption.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City authorizes the City Manager to transfer ownership of Colt to his handler for the price of \$1.00 and 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.

**ADOPTED** this the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July 2019.

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Bettie J. Parker  
Mayor

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April D. Onley  
City Clerk