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# Office of the Sheriff

Jesse Jahner, Sheriff

February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Cass County Commission

Chad Peterson Commission Chair,

Over the past several months, a few organizations and some citizens have approached me about adding a therapy K-9 to our Office. That spurred a conversation between Chief Deputy Haaland, I and some of our community partners. Through those discussions we have had some donors come forward who want to fund the initial start of the program. In addition, a K-9 breeder has offered to donate us a K-9 that we feel would be a great fit. Because of these generous donations, we believe the start-up cost will be very minimal to Cass County Sheriff's Office Budget. We estimate the startup cost to be approximately \$13,000.00. Most of the costs would be equipment specific, food and veterinary services. The donors have agreed to donate funds to get the program started and then Cass County would absorb the maintenance cost of the program going forward. As an agency we would utilize the program for the following.

- Building relations with our Schools and Children
- Possible De-Escalation of situations
- Community Events and Outreach
- Critical Situation Debriefs
- Assist with Investigation Victim Interviews
- Assisting Victim Advocate Programs
- Working with Veterans
- Companion for our staff
- Suspect Interview Situations

I believe this program would be crucial in the above listed efforts and most importantly building strong community relations with our citizens and helping with the overall well-being of our organization.

Suggested Motion

"Move to allow the Sheriff's Office to move forward with adding a Therapy Dog Program to the agencies resources".

Sincerely,

Jesse Jahner  
Cass County Sheriff

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