



MEMORANDUM

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: MICHAEL T. MARTINEZ, CHIEF OF POLICE
NICOLE VALENTINE, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A BUDGET ADJUSTMENT TO APPROPRIATE \$14,000, INCLUDING \$10,000 OF K-9 DONATIONS, FOR THE PURCHASE OF BALLISTIC HELMETS

DATE: JUNE 8, 2021

SUMMARY OF ACTION:

Approval of a budget adjustment is requested to authorize appropriation of \$10,000 in K-9 Donation funds to the Police Department budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21.

IMPACT ON FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES:

The total cost to purchase the Ballistic Helmets is \$14,000. K-9 Donations will be reallocated to pay for \$10,000 of the cost and the remaining \$4,000 will be absorbed by SLEF Citizen Options for Public Safety (C.O.P.S.) Grant. These donated funds were not included in the City's adopted Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget. As a result, a budget adjustment is proposed to recognize the \$10,000 K-9 Donation as revenue and authorize appropriation of the funds for the purchase of Ballistic Helmets.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the City Council approve a budget adjustment to the Police Department budget to record the \$10,000 of K-9 Donations as revenue and appropriate the expenditure of \$14,000 for Ballistic Helmets for Fiscal Year 2020-21.

BACKGROUND:

In December of 2017, the Arroyo Grande Police Department (AGPD) received a donation to the K-9 program from Robert Olson in the amount of \$5,000. In June of 2018, the AGPD received a donation to the K-9 program from The Arroyo Grande Lions Club in the amount of \$5,000.

In 2019, the department suspended the K-9 program indefinitely. Each donation has remained idle in the K-9 donation account until such time as a decision is made on the future of the program. In March 2018, K-9 Daghan was retired from service due to his age and the promotion of his handler. In October 2019, K-9 Tig was removed from service with AGPD. In considering a replacement K-9 team, the department found itself short of personnel who could be involved in the program, primarily due to lack of patrol

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staffing, but also due to housing requirements for the K-9. The department is currently focusing on hiring and training staff and initiating programs, such as Community Action Team officer, prior to revisiting a K-9 program. In the meantime, AGPD has been able to use the K-9 resources of other allied agencies without a loss in service to the community. In the rare occasions where K-9 service is needed, the department requests mutual aid from agencies who have K-9 availability. On each occasion K-9 operations are closely monitored by the on-duty watch commander.

ANALYSIS OF ISSUES:

During the past year, AGPD has faced many new challenges, including mutual support to events occurring in San Luis Obispo, Sacramento, and Los Angeles, and other high-risk operations such as the active shooter incident occurring in the Paso Robles area in the Summer of 2020. With these events, AGPD has taken inventory of its current tactical equipment and has found some pieces to be outdated or obsolete. Through this equipment review, Ballistic Helmets have been identified as a high priority item to have available for all officers within the police department.

Currently, officers are issued used ballistic helmets and face shields. Some of the helmets are over 15 years old and the ballistic capacities are compromised. The new proposed helmets are rated at the ballistic capacity of Level IIIA as rated by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and could withstand rifle ammunition. These particular helmets are used by tactical teams nationally and provide comfort and protection. Attached to the helmet itself is a (removable) thick plastic articulating face shield to protect the officer's face from projectiles or substances. The helmets will be used for high risk operations, such as search warrants, building searches, and armed suspects.

As a result of identifying this needed equipment, staff discussed possible options of funding this replacement. Knowing that the City has a large portion of K-9 donations currently and reviewing the proposed FY 2021-23 Biennial Budget, AGPD staff reached out to the two donors and spoke to them about the K-9 program and its hold status. A refund of the donations was offered as well as a discussion about reallocating the donation for the use of purchasing Ballistic Helmets. Both donors were very receptive to the reallocation of funds and agree with staff's recommendation to use these donations for this new purchase. A written response from each donor is included in Attachment 1.

Through purchase of Ballistic Helmets, the Police Department will be more successful in protecting our Police Officers heads and faces during critical moments such as high risk incidents.

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ALTERNATIVES:

The following alternatives are provided for the Council's consideration:

1. Approve a budget adjustment to the Police Department budget to record the \$10,000 of K-9 Donations as revenue and appropriate the expenditure for Ballistic Helmets of \$14,000 for Fiscal Year 2020-21;
2. Do not approve the budget adjustment to appropriate \$10,000 of K-9 Donations for the purchase of Ballistic Helmets and approve a budget adjustment to authorize the expenditure of \$14,000 of Fiscal Year 2020-21 reserves for the purchase of the Ballistic Helmets;
3. Do not approve a budget adjustment to the Police Department budget to record the \$10,000 of K-9 Donations as revenue and do not appropriate \$14,000 for the purchase of Ballistic Helmets in Fiscal Year 2020-21;
4. Provide other direction to staff.

ADVANTAGES:

Reallocating the K-9 donations will have several advantages. The revenue from each donation will cover \$10,000 of the \$14,000 total cost to replace the Department's ballistic helmets. The reallocation of each \$5,000 donation will provide for the replacement of outdated and compromised helmets used during high risk incidents.

DISADVANTAGES:

K9 donations will be used for police safety equipment.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

No environmental review is required for this item.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AND COMMENTS:

The Agenda was posted at City Hall and on the City's website in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letters from Donors



Arroyo Grande Lions Club

P.O. Box 1666
Arroyo Grande, CA 93421



April 16, 2021

Mike Martinez, Chief,
Arroyo Grande Police Department
200 No. Halcyon Rd.
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Chief Martinez,

On behalf of the Arroyo Grande Lions Club, I would like to thank you for your update to us on the status of funds we had donated to the Department's K-9 Unit.

With input from Lion Steve Wilson's communication with you, we were able to discuss it at our recent board meeting. It was a unanimous decision that the \$5,000 donation should be retained by your department so that it can be applied to the acquisition of proper safety equipment for your officers. We agree comfort and safety are important aspects for them when responding to a variety of requests to protect all of us from a variety of incidents.

In addition, we are reaching out to other Arroyo Grande service organizations to see if they would like to join us in helping you reach your budgetary goal for this equipment. Perhaps we can also have you or one of your other officers attend one of our meetings and provide an update once we are able to move in to a safe meeting environment\ for all attendees.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bill Cockshott'.

Bill Cockshott,
President, Arroyo Grande Lions Club

Cc: Mayor Russom, S. Wilson

From: [Michael T. Martinez](#)
To: [Linda Cox](#)
Subject: FW: Canine Donation
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 3:25:08 PM
Attachments: [pdcombined-moto_7978ed43-59a4-4a56-b76d-ca472db8e7ad1111111111.png](#)
[pdnixe_bba11398-8538-4909-95c6-9629f48e4f701111111111.png](#)

Michael Martinez

Chief of Police

Arroyo Grande Police Department

Tel: 805-473-5111 | Fax: 805-473-2198 | www.agpd.org

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"Ensuring Quality of Life"



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From: ROBERT OLSON [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 3:07 PM
To: Michael T. Martinez <MMartinez@arroyogrande.org>
Subject: Re: Canine Donation

Chief,

Thanks for your message and the opportunity to visit with you by phone this afternoon.

I'm so pleased that you and the department are doing well. These are difficult times for law enforcement, but I'm confident that everyone in the department will work together to get the job done serving the citizens of AG.

Per our discussion, I endorse your idea of putting the funds I contributed toward getting new helmets for your officers. Beyond that, should a higher priority arise I support whatever you choose to use the money for that best benefits the department.

Sincerely,

Bob

P. S. My congratulations to Logan on his coming graduation and enrollment at GCU.

On Apr 15, 2021, at 10:45 AM, Michael T. Martinez <MMartinez@arroyogrande.org> wrote:

Hello Bob,

First and foremost, I hope you are doing well and settling into your new home in Arizona. As I mentioned to you before, my son will be graduating in a few months and is planning to attend Grand Cayon University in the Fall. We are very excited to see him take the next step in his education, and we are confident GCU is a good fit for him.

I'm nine months into my position as the Chief of Police, and everything is going well. I'm fortunate to have some good mentors who prepared me for this role. As things begin to open up in California, I can concentrate on a few projects that I've wanted to move forward for our department. This leads me to a question I have regarding a \$5000 donation you made to our canine program. As you are aware, Chief Pryor suspended our canine program a few years ago. We have since surveyed the idea of reintroducing the program, and at this point, we have not encountered a need to have a canine on staff. Our calls for canine service do not justify the cost of reintroducing a program, specifically the dog's purchase and the amount of training involved. In those rare situations where a dog is needed, we have called upon the Sheriff's Department or Pismo Beach PD for assistance and this mutual aid has worked very well for us.

Because I don't see a canine program in AGPD's future, I feel it's necessary to address the funds that remain in our current canine account. First, I have no problem returning the funds back to you if you wish. If not, I'd like to propose using the funds for a project we are currently working on.

In the wake of George Floyd's death and a contested presidential election, our officers were called upon to provide mutual aid to outside agencies for civil unrest. We quickly discovered that most of the equipment we use for events like these is antiquated, unsafe, and not up to industry standard. With this said, we spent the past few months researching Level III-A riot control tactical helmets for our staff. This equipment is worthy of replacement as these new helmets can be used for various situations involving crowd control, critical incidents such as active shooter or emergency evacuations. Most importantly, our officers can wear them for extended periods as they are much more comfortable and practical than our previous outdated helmets.

If you are interested in directing your donation to our helmet replacement, I will have Linda apply your donation to this purchase. For reference, the cost to outfit our entire department is approximately 13,000, so needless to say; this will help out.

Please let me know how you would like me to proceed, and feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Thank you Bob,

Mike

Michael Martinez

Chief of Police

Arroyo Grande Police Department

Tel: 805-473-5111 | Fax: 805-473-

2198 | https://link.edgepilot.com/s/ee66784a/W6ykebXvtkqgD8BALS_oQw?u=http://www.agpd.org/

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