



Gearhart Police Department

K9 Unit Proposal – Agenda & Presentation Outline

1. Introduction

- Purpose of presentation
- Overview of proposal and objectives
- Importance of a K9 program for Gearhart and Clatsop County

2. Executive Summary

- Dual-purpose K9 (tracking/patrol & community engagement)
- Program housed by GPD, supporting all county agencies
- Startup cost estimate: \$20,000–\$30,000
- Annual upkeep estimate: \$500–\$2,000

3. Why a K9 Unit?

- Overview of need and benefits
- Public safety enhancement
- Community-oriented opportunities
- Visual deterrence and rapid response capability

4. History & Effectiveness of Police K9s

- 120+ years of police K9 service
- Effectiveness in tracking, apprehension, narcotics, and outreach



- Proven crime-deterrent value
- Improved officer safety and faster case resolution

5. Gearhart's Current Utilization & Needs

- Only one K9 currently available countywide
- Gaps in coverage
- Rise in fleeing suspects & property crimes
- Example incidents (fleeing suspect → burglary w/ children inside)
- County K9 handler feedback supporting additional unit

6. Handler Selection Process

- Internal posting and eligibility
- Transparent, fair selection
- Residency requirement for rapid response

7. Proposed K9 Functions

- Tracking: fleeing suspects & missing persons
- Patrol/protection
- Community engagement: demos, events
- Dual-purpose dog selected for temperament & certification

8. Potential Vendors

- Pacific Coast K9



- Nine Realms Canine
- K9WDI / Custom Canine
- Von Liche Kennels
- Vendor selection after handler appointment

9. Budget Overview

Startup Costs (\$20,000–\$30,000):

- K9 purchase & training
- Vehicle retrofit / vehicle purchase
- Home kennel setup
- Initial equipment

Recurring Costs (\$500–\$2,000):

- Vet care
- Food & equipment
- Training & certification

10. Equipment Breakdown

- E-collar
- Harness
- 15' & 30' leashes
- Leather muzzle
- Kennel



- Flat collar

11. Insurance & Liability

- Consulted with CIS and Knutsen underwriter
- Covered under city's liability policy
- K9 considered a city asset
- Quote: \$20,000 coverage for \$136.80 annually

12. Cost-Saving Measures

- At-cost vet care (North Coast Pet Clinic)
- Food sponsorship in discussion with Four Paws on the Beach
- No base-salary increases
- Donated K9 vehicle inserts
- Community partner/sponsor recognition

13. Grant Opportunities

- DOJ Byrne JAG
- AKC Reunite Grant
- K9WDI LEAP Grant
- Numerous nonprofit K9 foundations & community grants



14. Regional Mutual Aid

- Countywide support asset
- Gearhart calls remain priority
- Shared training, joint grants, community demos

15. Next Steps: Council Approval

- Approve internal handler posting
- Authorize vendor outreach & site visits
- Permit grant applications & acceptance of donations
- **Questions & Recommendations?**