

1 **348-032024**

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3 **RESOLUTION: 348-032024 Authorize the Sheriff's Office to Accept a Cash Donation of \$3,500 from the**  
4 **EAA AirVenture Runway 5K for specialty K9 Unit Squad Equipment**

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6 **TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

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8 **WHEREAS**, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office is responsible for providing law enforcement services  
9 to the citizens of Winnebago County; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, the deployment of K9 Units has greatly increased the efficiency and effectiveness for drug  
12 interdiction; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, K9 Units have also proven effective tracking fugitives and missing persons; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, the costs to operate canines such as food, veterinary care, training, equipment, and other  
17 items are supported through donations to a fund at the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation; and

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19 **WHEREAS**, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office has been offered a \$3,500 cash donation from the  
20 EAA AirVenture Runway 5K specifically for K9 Unit; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, it would be beneficial for the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office to accept the donation from  
23 EAA AirVenture for the K9 Unit to be used on specialty squad equipment.

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25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby  
26 authorizes the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office to accept the \$3,500 cash donation from EAA  
27 AirVenture, for specialty squad equipment for the K9 Unit squads.  
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33 Respectfully submitted by:  
34 JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
35 Committee Vote: 5-0  
36 Respectfully submitted by:  
37 PERSONNEL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE  
38 Committee Vote: 5-0

*Fiscal Note: This will increase both revenue and equipment expense in the Sheriff's Office by \$3,500.*

Vote Required for Passage: **Two-Thirds of Membership**

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33 Approved by the Winnebago County Executive on \_\_\_\_\_.

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36 \_\_\_\_\_  
37 Jonathan D. Doemel  
38 Winnebago County Executive

# County Board Report



DATE: March 19, 2024  
FROM: John Matz, Sheriff  
AGENDA ITEM: 348-032024 Authorize the Sheriff's Office to Accept a Cash Donation of \$3,500 from the EAA AirVenture Runway 5K for specialty K9 Unit Squad Equipment

## **General Description:**

Authorize the Sheriff's Office to accept a cash donation from the 2023 EAA AirVenture Runway 5K, specifically directed to the K9 Unit.

## **Action Requested:**

Recommend Passage by the County Board

## **Procedural Steps:**

Committee of Jurisdiction:	Judiciary and Public Safety Personnel & Finance	Meeting Date:	03/04/2024 03/07/2024
Action taken:	Both committees	Vote:	5-0
County Board:	_____	Meeting Date:	03/19/2024

## **Background:**

Each year, in conjunction with the annual EAA AirVenture Oshkosh event, the Runway 5k is held. This is a fundraising event wherein a portion of the registration fees are donated to a worthy cause. For the 2023 Runway 5K, the EAA AirVenture selected the Sheriff's Office K9 Unit as the recipient of the funds.

The race is open to everyone, including walkers, first-time runners, and seasoned athletes. The 5K route is a tour through the AirVenture grounds, where attendees see aircraft from all over the world and much of AirVenture's unique atmosphere. Attendees did not need AirVenture admission to participate in the race. The registration included an official event T-shirt, post-race food, refreshments, and access to shower facilities. The Runway 5K was presented by Covington Aircraft with awards courtesy of Piedmont Airlines, and additional support from 4imprint, 96.9 The Fox, and 103.9 WVBO. Proceeds from this year's run were published in the advertising and registration material and highlighted that it would benefit the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit.

### **Policy Discussion:**

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office is responsible for providing law enforcement and related services to the citizens of Winnebago County. Law enforcement canines are one of the most effective and diverse tools known to police work. They save time for our deputies, reduce the number of deputies needed for a search, or to contain an area, and deliver a more thorough search. Additionally, they are a useful tool to help keep our deputies safe during apprehension of dangerous criminals.

The full-time Sheriff's Office K9 Unit is comprised of four Deputy/K9 pairs assigned to the Field Services Division, and one Deputy/K9 pair assigned to the Corrections Division. All canines are owned by the Sheriff's Office. Three of the Field Services canines are considered dual-purpose canines and are trained in narcotics detection, tracking, area searches, building searches, article searches as well as apprehension work. In addition to traditional patrol work, they are also used in SWAT applications, search warrants, school searches, correctional facility searches, and demonstrations for the public in all areas of their job duties. The fourth Field Services canine is for explosive detection. They will respond to any area of the county as well as bordering counties if requested as mutual aid. The deployments of the K9 Units have greatly increased the efficiency and effectiveness for drug related patrol work. Likewise, our K9 Units have also proven effective tracking fugitives, locating missing persons, and security work. The fifth canine assigned to the Corrections Division is a facility dog who provides comfort to correctional officers, police officers, civilian and professional staff, victims, witnesses, and inmates to reduce anxiety and stress during times of crisis and gives aid and comfort to individuals, groups, and communities impacted by violence, tragedy, or traumatic events.

While the canines themselves have a work life expectancy of about 8 years, unexpected expenses occur as well. This, coupled with routine requests from community members to donate funds to our canines, prompted us to consider alternative means for funding. To this end, the Sheriff's Office partnered with the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation several years ago for members of the community to directly fund K9 Unit related expenses. Purchasing of canines and additional extra expenses of the K9 Unit programmatic funding have been distinctly absent from the Sheriff's Office budget, and unanticipated needs spending relies upon community donors for support.

It is not feasible for EAA AirVenture to donate cash directly to the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, so they have offered to directly donate the \$3,500 to the Sheriff's Office. This money will be used on specialty squad equipment needed to operate the K9 Unit squads, in lieu of reducing the fund balance at the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation.

It would be beneficial for the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office to accept the generous cash donation from EAA AirVenture.

### **Committee Discussion and Recommendation:**

*Judiciary and Public Safety Committee*

Sheriff Matz was approached by the EAA AirVenture to accept a \$3,500 donation for the K9 Unit to utilize. The money was from the Runway 5K that was held last summer during EAA.

A motion to authorize the Sheriff's Office to Accept a Cash Donation of \$3,500 from the EAA AirVenture Runway 5K for specialty K9 Unit squad equipment was made by Chairman Stafford, seconded by Supervisor Hanson. Carried 5-0.

*Personnel and Finance Committee*

Sheriff Matz appeared before the committee and discussed that this is typically donated to the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation fund.

Motion by Betsy Ellenberger, seconded by Steve Binder to approve resolution titled Authorize the Sheriff's Office to Accept a Cash Donation of \$3,500 from the EAA AirVenture Runway 5K for specialty K9 Unit squad equipment. Passed. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0

**Attachments:**

None