



City of Marion
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chris P. Hughes
Chief of Police

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MARION POLICE CANINE PROGRAM PRESS RELEASE

*** BEGIN PRESS RELEASE ****

During its regular monthly meeting, held on October 11, the Marion Common Council approved its police department to start a police canine program. Police Chief Chris Hughes and Officer Eric Krause presented the proposal to the Council's Public Protection Committee on October 4, who unanimously voted to recommend the program to the Council for approval.

Hughes stated Officer Krause did an extraordinary amount of research on this initiative and has proven its effectiveness. During the presentation the number of drug related incidents in and around the Marion area and a recent court decision curtailing an officer's ability to search incident to an arrest were cited as only a couple of the many reasons why such a program is needed. Specifically cited during the presentation were the incidents this summer where an unknown male was entering Marion homes and garages, and in one incident the perpetrator was frightened off not once but twice by the property owner. "Had there been a canine unit closer, it is quite possible we could have made an arrest" Hughes stated. The department also states such programs reduce an officer's time in performing searches. Police canines utilize the air around an object to detect the odor they are searching for in order to narrow down if not pinpoint the area where a missing person is or where illegal drugs may be. Hughes states canine programs in municipalities like Marion are not uncommon, specifically citing Wabeno and Crivitz.

Hughes acknowledged such programs in the Shawano and Waupaca Sheriff's Offices, but cited the challenges presented by these successful programs given the number of incidents handled and the territory those agencies cover. Hughes stated canines are not like a piece of equipment which can be "loaned out". The canine must be part of the handler's family and must go where that officer goes or it must be properly kenneled, said Hughes.

In its proposal the department stated the canine would be a "multi-purpose dog", meaning it would be used for narcotics detection, building searches, protection, searching for missing persons and suspects. The department expects to have the canine purchased and the training received by the fall of 2012. The department states the initial start up costs will be approximately \$22,000 and the annual maintenance costs thereafter will be approximately \$5,600. Plans for the department's fundraising efforts will be finalized within the next couple of weeks. Hughes states besides fundraising the department is seeking out other grants and partnerships to assist in making the program a success. It is proposed the canine will be purchased and the training received from the Steinig Tal Police K9 Academy in Campbellsport, WI.

Any one with questions regarding the police canine program or wish to make a tax deductible donation can contact Chief Hughes at 715-754-5060. Further information is forthcoming on the City's website at www.marion.govoffice2.com

*** END PRESS RELEASE ***

For further information regarding this press release contact;

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