



TO: Mayor Shaun Sipma
Members of the City Council

FROM: John Klug, Chief of Police

DATE: June 28, 2021

SUBJECT: RETIREMENT AND TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF POLICE K-9 “LOIS”

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Recommend approval of the retirement of police K-9 Lois; and
2. Recommend approval of the Sale and Transfer of Ownership of police K-9 Lois; and
3. Authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.

II. DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSONS

John Klug, Chief of Police	857-9800
Justin Sundheim, Captain	857-4717

III. DESCRIPTION

A. Background

Police officer and K-9 handler Erik Laudenschlager resigned his position with the Minot Police Department on June 22, 2021. Police K-9 Lois has been in service since March 2015 and was partnered with Officer Laudenschlager for her entire career. Lois has become socialized with her handler and plans were in place to retire Lois in 2022-23, making reassignment impractical. Therefore, retirement of Lois and transfer of ownership and liability to Erik Laudenschlager is the most practical decision for the City.

B. Proposed Project

Retire Police K-9 Lois from active service and transfer ownership, responsibility, and liability to Erik Laudenschlager for the sum of \$1 pursuant to the attached sale and waiver of liability agreement, and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with Erik Laudenschlager.

C. Consultant Selection

N/A

IV. IMPACT:

A. Strategic Impact:

The transfer of ownership of Police K-9 Lois to his handler, Erik Laudenschlager, will assure Lois a safe, comfortable, and familiar home. As his handler, Erik is aware of the special requirements of owning a former Police Service Dog and is already equipped to provide the necessary safety precautions inherent with owning a Police K-9.

B. Service/Delivery Impact:

The Police Department will still have Police K-9s Mace and Caspian in service on Patrol. Knowing the retirement of Lois was drawing near, the Police Department has started planning for the replacement and budgeting the needed funds for equipping and training a new K-9 for the department.

C. Fiscal Impact:

The sale and waiver of liability agreement will protect the City from any potential future liability. It also will require that Erik Laudenschlager accept all financial responsibility for all future costs associated with the ownership of K-9 Lois.

V. ALTERNATIVES

Alt 1. Attempt to identify and retrain a new handler for Police K-9 Lois. This is impractical as he is in the final years of effective service as a police K-9 and there are no guarantees that he would adapt to the new handler and continue to provide effective service. It is more efficient and cost effective to train a new Police K-9 with a new handler.

Alt 2. Euthanasia

VI. TIME CONSTRAINTS

Erik Laudenschlager and his family are currently housing and maintaining Lois at their residence, while the City still maintains ownership and liability. A timely resolution is essential.

VII. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

A. Sale of "Lois" and Waiver of Liability Agreement