



SHERIFF

CHRISTOPHER L. RAVELING • CLAY COUNTY SHERIFF

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To: Citizens of Clay County

The Clay County Sheriff's Office is actively seeking donations/ financial support, from our citizens and business', for the future purchase of a **Sheriff Canine Dog**. We are looking at purchasing a single purpose (Drug Detecting) canine, which we feel is another important tool in the war against drugs. The Clay County Sheriff's office has been without a **Sheriff Canine** since the year 2009.

The drug problem in northwest Iowa has drastically increased since the year 2009 and our statistics will show that. In the **past six months** the Clay County Sheriff's Office has recorded **.51 grams Heroin, 338 grams Marijuana, 424 grams Methamphetamine and 152 assorted Prescription Pills were seized by our office. Also our office forfeited/seized \$25,173 dollars in cash and one vehicle in that time frame.** It is important that I mention that all forfeitures/seizures don't come back to the Clay County Sheriff's Office. We belong to the **Iowa Great Lakes Drug Task Force** and that consists of thirteen different agencies. Also part of the forfeitures/seizures can be divvied out to Federal, State and Local agencies and Attorneys that assisted in the prosecutions of these cases. In other words we don't get to keep all the cash we seize.

It also important to recognize the fact that we have two heavily traveled State Highways and numerous paved County Roads the drugs are coming in and also traveling through Clay County. We are currently experiencing a Methamphetamine epidemic like never before and that just adds to the existing Marijuana issue. People are traveling to Colorado and other states where Marijuana is legal to purchase and unfortunately bringing it back to Clay County.

We don't have an exact dollar amount as to the start-up of a **Sheriff Canine Unit**, but depending on where we end up buying the canine, it could be anywhere from **\$4000-\$7000** for a single purpose drug dog. The difference, besides price, is the lower end dogs don't come with as long of **Health Guarantees/Warranties** if something should physically go wrong with the canine in the near future. We would also like our new canine to be certified in **Article Search** and **Tracking**. This simply is if a suspect throws contraband or evidence anywhere, the **Sheriff Canine Team** would be able to assist in locating those items. **Tracking** would be an essential tool if a suspect should flee from Deputies/Officer's or if an elderly person or child were to wander away. The estimated costs for specialized equipment needed for the **Sheriff Canine Unit** is estimated to be approximately **\$6000-\$8000 dollars**. This would include vehicle transport system and also temperature monitoring system and etc....

Once the **Sheriff Canine Unit** is in service there are minimal annual costs. The **Canine Team** will have to attend annual certifications. This will entail the cost of the recertification, gas, lodging, and meals. We will also ask people for continual support as long as the **Sheriff Canine Unit** is in service.

If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to **"Clay County K-9"** and mail to **PO Box 7957, Spencer, Iowa 51301. Any donation would be greatly appreciated!**

Respectfully,
Chief Deputy Zach Larsen
Clay County Sheriff's Office
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