



BROKEN ARROW POLICE DEPARTMENT

INTEROFFICE MEMO
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To: Major Bennett

From: Sergeant Smith

Cc: Captain Hughes

Date: January 4, 2018

Re: K-9 Vendor Recommendation

Major,

On 11-20-17 I solicited bids from vendors to begin the process to purchase a Dual Purpose K9. The bids were sent out to 6 vendors, with a mix of vendors we have purchased from in the past, several we have solicited bids from previously, and several that are new to the department, but which have a lengthy track record in selection and training police service dogs. The close date to receive the bids back was 12-22-17. I received a response from five of the six vendors solicited and only four submitted final bid prices. I'll summarize the results below:

- 1.) World Wide K9 (Spring Branch, TX.)
Dual Purpose Dog- \$7,500
- 2.) Vohne Liche Kennels (Denver, IN)
Dual Purpose Dog- \$9,000
- 3.) Tarheel Kennels (Sanford, NC)
Dual Purpose Dog- No returned bid
- 4.) FM K9 (Berrien Center, MI)
Dual Purpose Dog - \$6500
- 5.) Shallow Creek Kennels (Sharpsville, PA)
Dual Purpose Dog - \$7500
- 6.) Little Rock K-9 (Little Rock, AR)
Dual Purpose Dog - No bid submitted

The current bid was specifically for a German Shepherd dog with suitable characteristics and drives. We are wanting to have the option to evaluate and choose the best available dog that suits the needs of our K-9 unit. To this end we have selected several vendors that carry a higher volume of dogs, and requested they specify the available number they would have on hand to choose from.

The Broken Arrow K9 Unit in the past has made the majority of dog purchases with a local company, Canine Unlimited. In 2009 we selected a different vendor, Worldwide K9, as the local vendor was in the process of changing ownership. Recently, Canine Unlimited has changed their name to Torchlight K-9 and their primary focus is on breeding and training Belgium Malinois dogs. As this does not meet the current needs of our department, we selected not to request a bid as they would not be able to meet the requirements of the bid. We have made purchases of the German Shepherd breed from this vendor since the change, but they have considered those a special order with the need for partial payment prior to bringing in the dogs. This results in the purchase being made "sight unseen" and placing the burden of proper dog selection on the vendor.

Tarheel Kennels did not return a reply to the solicitation. Little Rock K-9 Academy did send a reply, however, they also stated their primary focus was on the Belgium Malinois breed and would only be able to make a special purchase to provide a German Shepherd Dog. They did not submit a price for the bid. The bid from Vohne Liche Kennel (\$9000) was significantly higher than the other bids submitted and I do not recommend selecting this bid.

The three remaining bids are relatively close in terms of price with two coming in at \$7500 and the low bid being \$6500. World Wide K-9 bid was \$7500 and they stated in their reply they would have 3 to 5 dogs available to choose from. FM K-9 was the low bid at \$6500 and stated they carry between 10 to 21 dogs at maximum and the majority are of the German Shepherd Breed. Shallow Creek Kennels submitted a bid of \$7500 and stated they have between 40 to 80 dogs on hand at any one time.

World Wide K-9 presents a bare minimum numbers of dogs to select from and would be the least favorable of the acceptable bids. Both FM K-9 and Shallow Creek are run by trainers who are certified through NAPWDA as master trainers and have a lengthy record in the industry. They both have provided numerous dogs to a multitude of different law enforcement agencies. Based on the number of dogs available, I would like to recommend that we select the Shallow Creek Kennel bid of \$7500. They are not the lowest bid we received, but they will have at least twice the number of dogs, if not more, available for selection versus FM K9.