



## ATHERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Inter-Department Correspondence

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To: Commander Daniel Larsen

Date: January 28, 2022

From: Sergeant Krystal Pronske

Subject: K9 Audit, 2022

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**Audit Purpose:** The purpose of the audit was to measure the Atherton Police Department Police Service Animal (K9) Unit's compliance with Lexipol Policy 315-Police Service Animals, the K9 unit's compliance with PackTrack training records, recommended minimum training hours per United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) / the North American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA) / the National Police Canine Association (NPCA), and budget compliance.

**Audit Scope:** The audit included a review of Policy 315, K9 teams' hours trained using the PackTrack database, and budget review of 2022/2023 fiscal year.

**Audit Methodology:** The methodology for the audit was a review of all previously mentioned data for the 2022 calendar year.

**Audit Results:** Our K9 teams were not meeting the industry standard recommended training hours, nor Policy 315. Policy 315 and the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) / the North American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA) / the National Police Canine Association (NPCA) recommends K9 teams train for a minimum of 16 hours per month, 4 hours per week, for a total of 192 hours per year to prevent the dog's responsiveness to their handler from deteriorating and causing potential liability to both the Atherton Police Department and the Town of Atherton. During this review our training hours were at 77.083% meeting the standard, where the previous year we were at 78.125%. This is most likely due to other trainings, vacations, or scheduling conflicts.

Our K9 unit currently consists of one team, Officer Romero and K9 "Jessie," who was consistent with inputting training hours into PackTrack. The hourly breakdown of training hours for our K9 team during the year of 2022 are as follows (per PackTrack database):

- Romero/"Jessie" - 148 hours

The budget for the fiscal year of 2020/2021 listed a K9 unit budget of \$15,099.00. As of 01/25/2023, 47.56% of the budget was used with a remaining balance of \$7,181.10.

The K9 team equipment is not following Policy 315, as there is currently only one bite suit which is a size large. The following items are not present – medium sized bite suit, hand protectors (2 sets), boots (foot protection), 100' leash (long line), scratch pants, undercover sleeves (including neoprene gauntlets), protective helmets (2) for agitators (football-style with face shield), ski vests (2) for agitators (rib protectors for muzzle work), "Police Service Animal Training" signs (2 minimally), hurdles, red guns (four).

**Audit Action Items:** I recommend the authorization of purchasing the following K9 unit team training equipment: "Police Service Animal Training" signs (2 minimally) and red guns (two minimally), and to continue to monitor the K9 unit to maintain compliance with Policy 315.

07-08-2023 Reviewed + approved.  
Requested equipment is  
not needed as this is  
all covered by our  
current K9 training vendor.

S — AI