

**SPECIAL COMMISSION WORKSHOP SESSION**  
**December 12, 2000**

The purpose of this special workshop meeting was to discuss the possibility of instituting a K-9 unit in the City's Police Department.

The Police Chief discussed the written material on the subject previously given to the Commission for review. He explained that the benefits of a K-9 unit include searches for criminals, missing persons and narcotics. The K-9 unit would also assist with routine patrol.

The total start up expenses for a K-9 unit would be approximately \$12,000, which would include the cost of a dog, training and vehicle modifications. Annual expenses should be approximately \$5,000 and would cover food, medication and overtime costs for the officer assigned to the dog.

The Chief explained that the initial training program takes 16 weeks and additional follow-up training will be needed periodically.

Funding for the first year of the program would come from seized funds and there would be no cost to the General Fund.

Sgt. Casey explained that the K-9 program should be approved as soon as possible because staff needs to interview training candidates and schedule modifications to the vehicle. He explained that the next training program starts on January 8<sup>th</sup>. He explained that if the City does not participate in this training program then the K-9 program and training cannot begin until 2002.

After further discussion the Commission was unanimous in its decision to proceed with the K-9 program in the Police Department.