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State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
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JOHN J. BARTHELMES
COMMISSIONER

December 29, 2017

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Requested Action

Pursuant to RSA 4:8, authorize the Department of Safety, Division of Fire Safety, to accept the donation of a scholarship from the State Farm Arson Dog Program with an estimated value of \$20,000.00 to attend the Spring 2018 class in Concord for the acquisition and training of an accelerant detection canine. Effective upon Governor and Council approval.

Explanation

This donated scholarship will provide for the acquisition and training of one accelerant detection canine for use with the State. The scholarship includes the cost associated with the acquisition of the canine, all training fees, the canine's lodging during the training phase, certification of the K9 team (the canine and the handler), and transportation expenses to and from the training facility at the Fire Academy in Concord, as applicable.

Accelerant detection canines are trained to sniff out minute traces of accelerants or ignitable liquids (gasoline, lighter fluid, etc.) that may have been used to start a fire. Each dog works and lives with its handler and both canine and handler are trained as a team to investigate fire scenes. These K9 teams are a tool to expose the crime of arson. They can effectively search multiple areas and layers of debris for evidence; reduce the number of samples sent to the lab, thus saving money; find ignitable liquids on people and clothing; access tight or hard to search areas; and find traces of ignitable liquids not detected by mechanical hydrocarbon detectors.

The Arson Dog Program in New Hampshire is made possible through State Farm Fire and Causality Insurance Company, which funds the initial training and certification of both canine and handler. Upon the K9 team's graduation from the school, the Division of Fire Safety will be responsible for the yearly recertification, veterinary care, food, and upkeep of the canine. Upon retirement, this canine will be relinquished to the assigned Fire Investigator handler to live out its years as a family pet.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Barthelmes".

John J. Barthelmes
Commissioner of Safety

From: Heather Paul [<mailto:heather.paul.jaw8@statefarm.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2017 11:13 AM
To: Degnan, J. William
Subject: State Farm Arson Dog Program Scholarship notification – Spring 2018 class

October 24, 2017

The State Farm Arson Dog Program received an application from the Office of the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal in June 2017.

Congratulations! Your department has been selected to receive a scholarship for the State Farm® Arson Dog Program in 2018. State Farm and Maine Specialty Dogs would like to invite you to participate in the spring class being held from April 2-27, 2018 in Concord, New Hampshire.

The State Farm scholarship includes all training fees, acquisition of the dog and lodging during the training, certification of the K-9 team, and transportation expenses to and from the training facility at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy in Concord, NH. State Farm will assist you and your department with travel arrangements if you would like to use this service. Information on travel assistance and details of the arson dog school will be sent once class dates are confirmed.

As stated in the application, once the team graduates from the school, yearly maintenance, care and upkeep of the K-9 is the responsibility of the department. This would include yearly recertification training. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the training, the scholarship, re-certifications or need any other information regarding the program.

Please confirm your acceptance of the scholarship by November 30, 2017. We understand that your department is reviewing applicants for the accelerant canine handler position. Additional information about the class and arranging for travel to training will be sent out in early 2018.

I can be reached by e-mail at heather.paul.jaw8@statefarm.com or by phone at (309) 766-0922 if you have any questions. You can also review information at the website – www.arsondog.org.

Congratulations again and we are looking forward to working with you and your department!

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