

When Police Service Dog retires, the medical costs are the responsibility is up to the handler or whomever adapts them. By then, a Police Service Dog's (PSD's) is older and has been put through a lot. This includes joint stress from jumping in and out of a vehicle, riding in the back of a vehicle under less than ideal conditions. This includes detection dogs and bloodhounds used by law enforcement.

The stress the PSD are under when searching for a subject, working in less-than-ideal situations to include extreme weather conditions.

I feel a Police Service Dog is probable one of the best non-lethal tools available to law enforcement. They have proven to be an excellent de-escalation tool numerous times in North Dakota.

Some examples of where well-trained PSD's have been a valuable de-escalation tool for law enforcement include:

- in Bismarck a known violent subject assaulted a female and was later found after he in an apartment open area. He was armed with a knife and expressed that officers would have to use deadly force to take him into custody. But he peacefully surrendered when he heard a PSD arrived on scene

- in Bismarck a subject was hiding in a crawl space and threatened officers if they came in to arrest him. A highly trained PSD was able to enter the compact area, grab the subject and get him out with no injuries to the officers and minimal to the subject.

- in Dunn CO a subject had assaulted his girlfriend who was able to get out of the house and call law enforcement. The subject was semi-barricaded in the house stating if officers entered they would be met with great resistance. The handler was able to deploy his K9 through a window behind the subject who immediately surrendered when he saw the K9.

- Recently a subject in Williston was found under a bed but refused to come out. The subject was hit with numerous pepper balls but still refused to come out until the K9 arrived.

- various agencies around North Dakota use a K9's when looking for violent offenders as a de-escalation/apprehension tool

Currently Florida has set aside moneys for retired Police Service Dogs for vet bills and other upkeep for the K9. In Arizona, there is a non-profit that raises money to help handlers with veterinarian fees and other expenses after retirement.

In summary, the handler does get a "very expensive dog" when the K9 retires. However, the K9 has worked a long time and is near the end of its life and will often require additional medical services unlike when they were younger. We are not asking that all expenses be covered but a \$1,000 a year as a thank you for their service.