



# CITY OF LA CROSSE

400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601  
(608) 789-CITY  
www.cityoflacrosse.org

## LEGISLATION STAFF REPORT FOR COUNCIL

File ID	24-1014	Caption	Resolution approving a memorandum of understanding between the City of La Crosse and the La Crosse Professional Police Non-Supervisors Association.
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### Staff/Department Responsible for Legislation

Chief Kudron and Rebecca Franzen
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### Requestor of Legislation

Rebecca Franzen
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### Location, if applicable

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### Summary/Purpose

In the past few years, the department has increased its initiatives in the area of staff wellness. Yearly health assessments, annual wellness checks with EAP and hearing protection are a few of these ways we are investing in our staffs' wellness. The purpose of this initiative is to provide staff with access to a therapy dog, allowing them to have another resource of support in their day to day operations. This will be the Department's 2nd K-9 Therapy Dog. Police Department members both sworn and professional are impacted in a variety of ways from their exposure to complex and traumatic calls for service they respond and assist. In keeping with the same philosophy we serve our community, we continue to find new and innovative ways to serve staff and help to maintain their wellness as employees.
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### Background

The La Crosse Police Department has a history of finding new and innovative programs and services to improve and serve the La Crosse Community. In 2023, the department added a K-9 Therapy Program and introduced Cheddar. Having this unique program, assists with connections in the community and provides security, companionship, happiness, and love. Cheddar has been able to assist as an icebreaker, enabling people to feel more comfortable interacting with law enforcement during times of crisis, but also in daily community engagement settings. The Department's K-9 Therapy Program models a "team" approach. This concept has one handler for a "home base" but other identified department members. Cheddar joined the La Crosse Police Department from the generous donation of Blueberry Cottage Labradoodles located in Western Wisconsin, and he has been a support for community members. Blueberry Cottage Labradoodles has donated the 2nd K-9 Therapy dog which will be utilized as an internal support for department members.
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### Fiscal Impact

Any costs beyond donations, would be covered by the department's operating budget. The additional expense of approximately \$2,100 in wages for the primary caregiver/handler in 2024 and \$6,300 in 2025 will be absorbed in the department's operating budget.
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### Staff Recommendation

Adopt
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