



# City of Saginaw

## City of Saginaw

**Meeting Date:** 3/06/2018

**Staff Contact:** Doug Spears  
Fire Chief

**Agenda Item:** 6  
(CC-0318-05)

**E-mail:** [dougspears@saginawfire.us](mailto:dougspears@saginawfire.us)

**Phone:** 817-230-0412

---

**SUBJECT:** Consideration and Action regarding Resolution No. 2018-05, acceptance of grant, if awarded, for vehicle to transport arson dog

---

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

Resolution No. 2018-05 supports the application for the Criminal Justice Grant Program (CID) from the Office of the Governor for the Arson Dog Vehicle Project. Approval of the resolution allows the acceptance of the grant if awarded. The amount of the grant is \$52,500. It does not require any matching funds from the City. Additional details are included in the attachments.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

This is a zero matching requirement grant in the amount of \$52,500.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of Resolution No. 2018-05 as presented.

Attachments

Resolution No. 2018-05

Memo with attachment from Fire Chief Spears

**City of Saginaw**

**Resolution No. 2018-05**

**Grant Number: 3562501**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAGINAW, TEXAS, IN SUPPORT OF THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRANT PROGRAM(CJD) FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR FOR THE ARSON DOG VEHICLE PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Saginaw finds it in the best interest of the citizens of Saginaw that the Vehicle Project be operated for the 2019 year, and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Saginaw agrees that in the event of loss or misuse of the Criminal Justice Division funds, all funds will be returned to the Criminal Justice Division in full.

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Saginaw designates Gabe Reaume, City Manager as the grantee's authorized official. The authorized official is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Saginaw, Texas approves submission of the grant application for the Arson Dog Vehicle Project to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division.

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAGINAW, TEXAS THIS THE 6TH DAY OF MARCH, 2018.**

---

Todd Flippo, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Janice England, City Secretary



# Saginaw Fire Department

400 S. Saginaw Blvd. Saginaw, Texas 76179  
Tel: 817-230-0412 Fax: 817-232-3731

**DOUG SPEARS**  
**FIRE CHIEF**

**TO:** City Manager Gabe Reaume  
**FROM:** Fire Chief Doug Spears  
**DATE:** March 1, 2018  
**RE:** Vehicle Grant Resolution Adoption

As you are aware our department was successfully chosen to receive an arson canine through the State Farm Insurance Arson Dog program. I have included the original memo outlining the Arson Dog program and our participation. As a result of being chosen to receive an arson canine we submitted a Criminal Justice Grant Program application to the Office of the Governor in attempt to be awarded a vehicle to safely transport the canine. In 2014 our Police Department applied for and was awarded a radio communication equipment grant through this same program.

This opportunity is a zero matching requirement grant in the amount of \$52,500. The funds would be utilized to purchase a new Chevrolet Tahoe outfitted with the necessary equipment to safely transport the canine. The equipment consists of a canine cage, additional cooling and ventilation equipment, a rear equipment storage cabinet as well as some minimal emergency lighting and radio communications equipment.

A condition of the grant is to have an adopted City Council resolution indicating the city would accept the award if successful and acknowledges the agreement(s) contained within. The adopted resolution is required to receive an acceptable "grade" on the grant in order for it to move forward in the consideration process.

The resolution is attached and it is my recommendation that we seek City Council adoption.



# Saginaw Fire Department

400 S. Saginaw Blvd. Saginaw, Texas 76179  
Tel: 817-230-0412 Fax: 817-232-3731

**DOUG SPEARS**  
**FIRE CHIEF**

**TO:** Interim City Manager Dan O'Leary

**FROM:** Fire Chief Doug Spears

**DATE:** November 16, 2017

**RE:** State Farm Arson Dog Program

Our department has been awarded the tremendous opportunity to participate in the State Farm Insurance sponsored Arson Dog program. Accelerant detection canines, commonly referred to as arson dogs, are placed with career fire and law enforcement agencies to mitigate the loss of lives and the billions of dollars in property loss annually as a result of intentionally set fires. We were first approached about this program back in 2007 by a local State Farm Insurance agent who was tasked with seeking a reputable municipal agency in the DFW region to promote as a candidate for this program. As the Fire Marshal in 2007 I was not prepared or able to accept the commitment to be the handler of such a tremendous canine asset nor was any other member of our department. About two years ago I was approached by Lt. John Tadlock, not aware of our previous potential opportunity, about the possibility of incorporating a canine into our department to use in the capacity of fire investigation, explosive detection or search and rescue but to really, and more beneficially, gain the invaluable public relations supplementary benefit that fire department canines provide.

Approximately eighteen months ago we submitted an application to State Farm to be considered for the Arson Dog program. It is a highly competitive selection process and it is not uncommon for applicants to be placed on a waiting list for several years before being accepted. State Farm has several criteria or considerations when selecting a recipient department but a couple of the primary ones are the proximity to other arson dog teams and the desire to place the canine in the areas with the greatest need. There is a shortage of arson dogs in our multi county region and our department's membership and regular participation in the Tarrant County Fire and Arson Investigators Association along with our great working relationship with multiple departments throughout our county and the neighboring counties ultimately made us an ideal choice.

Since 1993 the program has placed approximately 380 canines with their partner/handler in 45 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian Provinces. They currently attempt to place 8-10 canines a year depending on the availability of quality canines to undergo the challenging training.

State Farm provides the canine and the training of the canine and handler as a team with the 4-5 week training taking place in Concord, New Hampshire. State Farm funds all the costs for travel to and from for both the canine and handler, lodging and all meals. The award or cost to State Farm is approximately \$30,000.

To participate in the program or accept the canine award our only obligation is to annually recertify the team (handler and canine) for a five year period. In order to remain credible in criminal prosecutions arson teams are required to recertify every year. The service life of these canines is typically ten years at which time they are usually retired and remain an integral part of the canine handler's family.

There will be some associated costs for our department. That annual cost is estimated to be between \$2000 and \$2200 with the biggest portion going toward the annual recertification of the canine and handler as a team. I am confident we can absorb this cost into our current department budget. There are some grant opportunities specifically designated toward public safety canines that we will pursue in order to acquire some equipment and services to help care for the canine.

In deciding with whether to seek participation in the program we spoke with numerous other fire departments who have a canine. All the feedback was extremely positive and universally they agreed that it was the best PR tool their organization has ever had.

With participating in the program the intent is to make our canine-handler team available to assist agencies in the region with fire investigations when requested and situation permitting. We already actively participate in task force fire investigations in the region through our membership in the Tarrant County Fire and Arson Investigators Association. With us having an arson detection canine we simply continue our participation but with the benefit of a different and much needed asset.

I have given substantial consideration to the necessary commitment of our department, and certainly of Lt. Tadlock as the canine's handler, incorporating a canine into our department. Although the commitment is significant the reward is tremendous as I believe everyone will discover. I am 100% confident in Lt. Tadlock's commitment and his abilities to make this "program" a success. The training and matching of the canine to their handler is scheduled for the month of April. More information about the program can be found online at [arsondog.org](http://arsondog.org)

Please let me know if you have any questions, comments or concerns and I will address them promptly.