

BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Troy Heck, Sheriff
Neal Jacobson, Chief Deputy

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 09/16/2024

AUTHORITY OF SHERIFF TROY HECK

The Benton County Sheriff's Office has partnered with the Central Minnesota K9 Foundation to raise funds for the purchase of a new K-9 partner.

In April of 2024, the Benton County Sheriff's Office had a significant retirement. Ragnar, the sheriff's office's only K-9 partner, retired after 7 years of service. Ragnar's retirement has left a significant gap in the resources our office can bring to assist the public. Law enforcement canines serve many important functions including searching for lost people, finding illegal drugs, locating evidence of a crime, and apprehending violent offenders. Fielding a law enforcement canine partner is a sizeable investment for any agency. Agencies typically expend up to \$25,000 on the purchase of the dog, equipment, and training.

In early summer of 2024, the Benton County Sheriff's Office applied for and received a \$5,000 matching grant from the Central MN K9 Foundation. The Central MN K9 Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization founded by a former Benton County deputy sheriff. Their mission is to support Minnesota law enforcement K-9 teams. Under the terms of the grant, the Central MN K9 Foundation will match up to \$5,000.00 of money donated by individuals, businesses, and community groups during a 30-day fundraising campaign. Benton County's 30-day fundraising campaign begins today, September 16th. Our plan is to use the community donations and grant funding to acquire a new canine partner in early 2025.

Anyone interested in helping our office secure the funding required to obtain our next canine partner may donate to the Central MN K9 Foundation. Donation may be made in any of the following methods:

- A check or money order made out to Central MN K9 Foundation mailed to Central MN K9 Foundation, 8230 55th St NE, Foley, MN 56329.
- Via Venmo or PayPal using the QR codes printed below.
- Via the donation button on the Central MN K9 Foundation website at <https://centralmnk9foundation.com/>
- In person at any Falcon Bank location by specifying a desire to donate to the Central MN K9 Foundation's Benton County K-9 grant.

The Benton County Sheriff's Office has operated a K-9 program funded entirely by the generosity of the public for the last 17 years. We look forward to continuing this partnership with the communities we serve and bringing our next canine partner into the sheriff's office.

Troy Heck
Benton County Sheriff

