



John A. Turner
Sheriff



Scott Bieber
Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE

March 23, 2015

Today the City of Walla Walla purchased canine "Farel," a 4 year old Belgium Malinois certified in Washington State as a patrol canine, from the County of Walla Walla for ten thousand dollars. This transaction was precipitated by the lateral transfer of Farel's handler, Deputy Travis Goodwin, from the Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office to the Walla Walla Police Department effective April 1, 2015. Sheriff John Turner and Police Chief Scott Bieber felt it was in the community's best interest that the seasoned K-9 unit remain serving together as a team.

After April 1st, K-9 Farel and his handler will be primarily assigned to patrol the City of Walla Walla, however due to mutual aid, the team will remain available to respond and serve all areas of Walla Walla County when K-9 services are needed.

K-9 Farel was originally purchased by the Walla Walla Sheriff's Foundation, a private 501c3 organization, with private citizen donated funds and then donated to Walla Walla County for the Sheriff's Office canine program.

By action of the Walla Walla County Commissioners today, the proceeds of this sale will be earmarked and reserved for the future purchase of another Sheriff's Office canine. This future purchase will increase the previous two county patrol K-9 teams to three patrol K-9 teams serving our community; two Sheriff's Office K-9 teams and one Walla Walla Police Department team. The Walla Walla Police Department also has a drug detection canine team.

Guy Gingell, board member of the Walla Walla Sheriff's Foundation said that he is very grateful that the County Commissioners decided to earmark these funds for a future Sheriff's Office canine, "This sends the right message to all the generous donors who originally raised these funds for a sheriff's dog. It's the right thing to do and it benefits us all by adding another patrol dog to serve our community."

Sheriff John Turner and Police Chief Scott Bieber stated they were pleased and grateful that the city and county could easily work together to accomplish this purchase which benefits both agencies and the community they serve.