



NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Shannan Moon, Sheriff-Coroner-Public Administrator

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the agreement to transfer ownership of canine officer Riggs from Nevada County Sheriff's Office to canine handler Deputy Kayla Ramos for the purchase price of \$1.00 as canine officer Riggs is retired and authorizing the Sheriff, or her designee, to execute the agreement.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the resolution.

FUNDING: If approved, the canine (K9) handler will purchase Riggs for \$1.00 payable to the County. There is no impact to the General Fund.

BACKGROUND: Riggs was purchased by the Sheriff's Office in 2024 through grant funding from the Rüdiger Foundation (Reso 24-527). With the support of this grant funding, Nevada County Sheriff's Office was able to expand its canine program. The goal of the canine program is to increase canine coverage in our community, and thereby potentially decrease crime while strengthening the community partnership between law enforcement, businesses, and the citizens we serve. Canine officers can reduce the number of fleeing subjects, increase apprehension rates, deter and de-escalate confrontational situations with deputies, thereby decreasing injuries to officers and the public, and aid in locating missing persons more quickly.

With the Rüdiger grant funding, the Sheriff's Office purchased the 1st canine officer, Ranger, for the program. A second canine officer was added in 2024 with the purchase of Riggs, and a third K9 was added for the purchase of Odin in 2025, again with the assistance of the Rüdiger Foundation (Reso 25-120).

Riggs has been a tremendous asset to the Sheriff's Office with training to ensure that he effectively performed when faced with problematic incidents. Riggs, alongside his handler Deputy Kayla Ramos, collaborated with various Law Enforcement personnel to apprehend individuals, ensuring the safety of both the Law Enforcement team and the apprehended individuals. Riggs is also well known for attending community meet and greets and demonstrations where he has met thousands of community members over his years of service.

For Riggs' retirement, it was determined that the most desirable option was to allow his current handler, Deputy Kayla Ramos, to purchase him for the nominal price of \$1.00. With this agreement, all liability and responsibility of care and feeding of Riggs will transfer to Deputy Ramos and Riggs will be able to retire in a relaxed lifestyle with a familiar and trustworthy handler.

Nevada County Sheriff's Office plans to continue the K9 program and another canine officer is currently being sought out with the proper training and credentials. The Rüdiger Foundation has agreed to provide grant funding to support the Sheriff's Office with the purchase of new canine Lambo. See companion March 24, 2026 board item regarding approval for the Rüdiger grant agreement.

Initiated by: Sean Scales

Approved by: Shannan Moon