



Robert J. Alberti  
Chief of Police

# CITY OF EASTHAMPTON

50 Payson Avenue  
Easthampton, MA 01027  
(413) 529-1400



Nicole LaChapelle  
Mayor

November 1, 2022

## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **EASTHAMPTON POLICE DEPARTMENT'S K9 GINO HAS BEEN AWARDED A "HEALTHCARE FOR K9 HEROES" GRANT**

**Easthampton, MA** – Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501c (3) nationwide charity located in East Taunton, MA, whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. The non-profit is pleased to continue their "Healthcare for K9 Heroes" medical insurance program for 2022 which covers annual policy premiums. Since 2016, the charity has donated over \$270,259 towards medical reimbursement programs for self-funded K9 units.

Selected as 2022 recipients to date are: Easthampton Police Department - MA - K9 Gino; Webster City Police Department - IA - K9 Moab; Flora Police Department - MS - K9 Drago; Cherokee County Sheriff's Office - IA - K9 Vulcan; Natick Police Department - MA - K9 Koda; DuQuoin Police Department - IL - K9 Booker; King and Queen County Sheriff's Office - VA - K9 Tess; Lakewood Police Department - NJ - K9 Shim; Glocester Police Department - RI - K9 Tate; Argo Police Department - AL - K9 Argo; Prentiss County Sheriff's Department - MS - K9 Denzel; Harwich Police Department - MA - K9 Fritz; Ellsworth County Sheriff's Office, KS, K9 Riggs; Pottsboro Police Department - TX - K9 Ursa; Warren County Sheriff's Office - IA - K9 Ringo; Linn Police Department, MO, K9 Brownie; Wayzata Police Department, MN, K9 Loki; Paoli Police Department, IN, K9 Kilo; Polk Borough Police Department, PA, K9 Pablo; Hohenwald Police Department, TN, K9 Cir; Piedmont Public Safety, GA, K9 Black Lightning; St. Paris Police Department, OH, K9 Frankie; St. Paris Police Department, OH, K9 Thorn; Princeton Police Department, MN, K9 Bogey; Manor Township Police Department, PA, K9 Atom; Alexander County Sheriff's Office, NC, K9 Ash; Alexander County Sheriff's Office, NC, K9 Bane; Love County Sheriff's Office, OK, K9 Maya; Jack County Sheriff's Office, TX, K9 Canelo; Village of Monroe Police Department, NY, K9 Keen; Rehoboth Police Department, MA, K9 Edo; Henry County Sheriff's Office, IA, K9 Axel; Franklin County Sheriff's Office, KY, K9 Chase; Pleasant Township Fire Department, OH, K9 Sasha; Roosevelt County Sheriff's Office, MT, K9 Hati; Shelbyville Police Department, KY, K9 J.C.; Muscogee County School District Police Department, GA, K9 Buddy; Knoxville Police Department, IA, K9 Rosko; Benton Police Department, KS, K9 Rocky; Caribou Police Department, ME, K9 Ace; Newington Police



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Department, NH, K9 Augie; Washington County Sheriff's Office, IA, K9 Dzamel; Cherokee Police Department, OK, K9 Tex; Harveysburg Police Department, OH, K9 Keira.

The “Healthcare for K9 Heroes” grant is awarded to departments which have the financial burden of raising funds to support their K9 unit, have no more than three K9s, and have previously been awarded a vest through Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. Law enforcement dogs ages two through seven are eligible. The annual medical reimbursement insurance policy, administered by Trupanion, will cover illnesses, injuries—including those sustained in the line of duty—diagnostic testing, and therapies. The plan allows the freedom to use any licensed veterinarian, specialty center, or emergency hospital in the United States.

Trupanion, a leader in medical insurance for cats and dogs, offers injury and illness coverage for working and service dogs on and off duty. For nearly two decades, Trupanion has given pet owners and working dog owners peace of mind so they can focus on their dog's recovery, not financial stress. Trupanion is honored to support these brave K9 heroes and is committed to providing the highest value in medical insurance to help them receive the best veterinary care.

In addition to the healthcare reimbursement program, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided over 4,845 law enforcement dogs with U.S.-made, custom-fitted, NIJ-certified bullet and stab-protective vests in 50 states, at a value of over \$6.9 million dollars. For more information, please call 508-824-6978. Tax-deductible donations are accepted via mail to: Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718, or via the website: [www.vik9s.org](http://www.vik9s.org).

