



Leigh Anne Burtchael
Finance Manager
Nashville Fire Department
63 Hermitage Avenue
Nashville, TN 37210

June 1, 2018

Subject: State Farm® Arson Dog Program

Dear Leigh Anne,

I am the National Coordinator for the State Farm Arson Dog Program. Since 1993, State Farm has been providing funding for the acquisition and training of accelerant detection canine teams. We are pleased be able to provide funding for the training and placement of an accelerant detection canine team with the Metro Nashville Fire Department. The estimated value of this training (per accelerant detection canine team) is \$25,000.

The State Farm Arson Dog Program grant provides funding for:

- 1) acquisition of canine;
- 2) expenses associated with training by Maine Specialty Dogs for both handler and canine;
- 3) room and board plus most meals during training;
- 4) certification and evaluation by a chemist from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy;
- 5) transportation costs to attend the initial 4-week class in Concord, New Hampshire

Please feel free to contact me at 309-766-0922 should you like to discuss the program.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Heather Paul".

Heather Paul
Public Affairs Specialist
State Farm Arson Dog Program Coordinator
State Farm Corporate Headquarters



State Farm® Arson Dog Program Quick Facts

Key Messages

- Arson is a very serious problem as each year hundreds of lives are lost and millions of dollars in property damage occurs as a result of arson. It is important that law enforcement officials have every tool possible to combat this costly and sometimes deadly crime.
- Public education on arson, arson investigation and fire prevention through community outreach programs is essential to providing safer communities.
- State Farm's sponsorship of this program parallels with the values and characteristics it strives for as a good corporate citizen and is a perfect complement to State Farm's good neighbor values.
- Arson dogs can help fire investigators or law enforcement find evidence of arson crime quickly.
- Using their super strong noses, arson dogs are trained to point out where there is evidence that a fire has been started on purpose. Evidence can be gasoline, oil, or many other types of fuels that can start a fire.
- More information can be found by visiting www.arsondog.org.

Arson Dog Program Facts

- Program was established in conjunction with the Maine State Police and the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in 1993 through the sponsorship of State Farm.
- Over the past 25 years, more than 400 teams have been trained and placed in 45 states, District of Columbia and Canada through the State Farm Arson Dog Program.
- As of April 2018, there are over 100 certified arson dog teams trained through the State Farm Arson Dog Program in service. These teams investigate fire scenes to find evidence of possible arson across North America.
- The K9s are all Labrador Retrievers or Goldadors (Lab x Golden Retriever mix) because:
 - Labs have a superior ability to discriminate scents at a fire scene (the nose of a lab can smell in parts per quintillion!).
 - Labs generally have a good disposition and an outgoing personality.
 - Labs are very active and have a "love to work" type attitude.
- K-9s are chosen through a cooperative program with guide dog and disability assistance canine organizations, as well as through local animal shelters and humane societies.
- K9s are trained using the food reward method, meaning the dogs only eat from the hand of their handler when they are training or working a fire scene. They never eat from a dog bowl!
- K9s live and retire in the home of their handler.
- K9s are trained by Maine Specialty Dogs and are certified through the Maine State Criminal Justice Academy. The K-9s and handlers are required to complete 200 hours/ four weeks of training.
- Teams (K9s and handlers) are required to be recertified every year to remain a certified Accelerant Detection Canine team.



Did you know?

- Since 1993, the State Farm Arson Dog Program have placed teams in 3 Canadian provinces, 45 states and the District of Columbia. Only five U.S. states haven't had a dog trained through the program: Nevada, Alaska, Connecticut, Vermont, and South Dakota.
- Honolulu Fire Department will get their first arson dog team in 2018 and will be training in the 50th class for the State Farm Arson Dog Program. Honolulu is also the capital of Hawaii, the 50th state.
- The northern-most team trained through the State Farm Arson Dog Program is near Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. That team has even traveled north of the Arctic Circle to investigate fires!
- Paul Gallagher, owner and head trainer of Maine Specialty Dogs, has been training all of the arson dog teams for the State Farm Arson Dog Program since the first class in February 1993. And he is allergic to dogs!
- The State Farm Arson Dog Program has trained new arson dog teams every year for a quarter of a century. It is the longest continuous arson dog training program in North America.
- Three State Fire Marshal Offices have been involved with the State Farm Arson Dog Program since the first year in 1993 – New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office, Georgia State Fire Marshal's Office, and Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office.
- Paul Gallagher was the first arson dog handler for the State of Maine as a trooper with the Maine State Police. His partner, K9 Maddie, passed away at the age of 18.
- In 2016, State Farm paid nearly \$2.5 BILLION for residential and commercial fire-related claims (45,757 claims). The average paid per claim was \$54,531.

Superhero powers...SMELL!

- Dogs possess up to 300 million olfactory receptors in their noses, compared to about six million in us.
- The part of a dog's brain that is devoted to analyzing smells is 40 times greater than humans.
- We might notice if our coffee has had a teaspoon of sugar added to it but a dog could detect a teaspoon of sugar in a million gallons of water, or two Olympic-sized pools.
- When an arson dog smells gasoline or evidence at a fire, they sit down and point to it with their nose...even if it is buried under burnt debris or has been soaked in water!





State Farm



Information about the State Farm Arson Dog Program is available at www.arsondog.org. State Farm provides for the following items; there is no upfront costs to the police or fire department and everything is initially funded by State Farm:

- 1) dog
 - 2) fees associated with training by Maine Specialty Dogs
 - 3) room and board plus most meals during training
 - 4) certification and evaluation by a chemist from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy
 - 5) transportation costs to attend the initial 4-week class in Concord, New Hampshire
- State Farm does not provide scholarships or training for private handlers or companies and we do not provide support for volunteer fire departments. Our program is only open to full-time police or fire departments.
 - The estimated scholarship value for all of this about \$25,000 per team. We train 10-15 teams each year.
 - Following those initial costs, the individual department/city/state agency that is requesting the handler and arson K-9 will be responsible for the K-9's care and expenses. This includes but is not limited to veterinarian care, food, yearly recertification at one of the sites designated by Maine Specialty Dogs and general care for the K-9. State Farm does not provide funding for veterinary services. Your department must be willing to cover those annual expenses. Additionally, your department will be responsible for any overtime pay for the daily training of the canine or for investigations outside of regular work hours.
 - The annual recertification class is at the expense of the handlers' department as well. In order to remain compliant and accredited, each handler and K-9 must complete one recertification class each year. There are typically three classes held in various states across the country each year and occur over a 2 ½ day period. Each department must cover the expenses associated with the recertification class. These costs include travel to and from the recertification location, hotel, meals, and the chemist test (\$85). The location of the recerts are different from year to year but we try and keep them regionally located.
 - As long as the department supports the handler and K-9 and each year the team is recertified, the dog will continue to work for the department until it is ready to retire. The decision to retire a dog is made by the handler, department, and Maine Specialty Dogs. We have dogs that continue to work for 10 plus years. If a dog retires, the department can request a replacement K-9. The handler will then attend the 4 week class to become acquainted with the new dog and develop a working relationship.

- State Farm does not require departments to investigate fires outside of their jurisdiction area. It is up to individual departments on how and where to use the dog and handler. They are also not required to only work State Farm fires. The arson dog team will work any and all fires regardless who the insurer for the property is.
- Teams must have support from your department. Even more importantly, your department must have an acceptable fire load to justify the K-9 team. We look at your location other arson dog teams and structure fire load numbers for the last two years. We like to see that your department responds to at least 50 – 100 structure fires a year. This can be for a single department, multiple jurisdictions that the arson dog will service, or an entire region.
- There is a 5-year commitment for the program that states the department (police or fire) that has the arson dog team will stay in the program for a minimum of 5 years, including annual recertification. If the handler or department decides to leave the program within the first 5 years, Maine Specialty Dogs (our trainer) will take the dog back and place it with a different team or retire the dog. If the department discontinues the program after the first 5 years, the department owns the dog and can retire the dog. This usually means the dog lives with the handler as a family pet.
- Operating costs for the canine vary but typically include veterinary care, food, and annual recertification. The largest cost associated with operating a canine is with overtime pay or compensation for the handler. Because these are food reward dogs, training takes place multiple times a day so the dog is fed when not working a fire scene.

We accept applications for the program through the end of August for 2018 class consideration. If your department is not placed in a 2019 class, the application will be considered for 2020 class placement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION, VISIT WWW.ARSONDOG.ORG

Contact: Heather Paul

State Farm Arson Dog Program National Coordinator

PH: 309-766-0922

Email: heather.paul.jaw8@statefarm.com



Thank you for your recent participation in the State Farm Arson Dog Program. We are incredibly proud of our arson dog teams. With regards to the value of the training and of the canine, State Farm estimates the value of the program to be \$25,000 per team. Here is a breakdown of expenses.

- Vaccinations/blood work: It is estimated to be **\$1,000** for the vaccinations, veterinary care, blood work and paper work.
- Travel to and from training class? Travel reimbursement will likely run **\$2,000** or so for both you and the dog.
- Tuition for class? **\$10,000** for a month of training through Maine Specialty Dogs plus continued training and support for the first year of the arson dog team
- Lodging for training class: **\$2,700** for one month of lodging at the New Hampshire Fire Training Academy
- Food for handler: **\$2,000** for a month of food expenses for handler during the 4 weeks of training in New Hampshire
- Cost of dog? The average is **\$3,000** to acquire the dog from a disability assistance program like Southeastern Guide Dogs or Paws with a Cause.
- Imprinting and training of dog for 2 months prior to the training class: **\$2,500** for the dog to be trained the dog for accelerant detection work. This includes months of food, boarding, and veterinary expenses to maintain the dog prior to the start of training class.
- Transportation expenses for Maine Specialty Dogs during training class: **\$1,000** for Maine Specialty Dogs to transport handlers and their dogs to burn locations and training locations during the 4 weeks of class. This expenses covers gasoline, car insurance, and wear/tear on vehicle.
- Certification and testing through Maine State Police: **\$1,000**

Heather Paul, Public Affairs Specialist
State Farm®
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Mobile: 309-826-7899
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SIGNATURE PAGE
FOR

GRANT NO. 2018 State Farm Arson Dog

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have by their duly authorized representatives set their signatures.

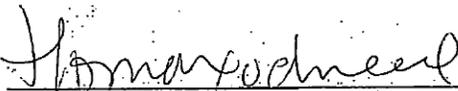
**METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF
NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY**



Fire Department

6-13-2018
Date

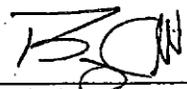
APPROVED AS TO AVAILABILITY
OF FUNDS:



Talia Lomax-O'neal, Director
Department of Finance

6-14-18
Date

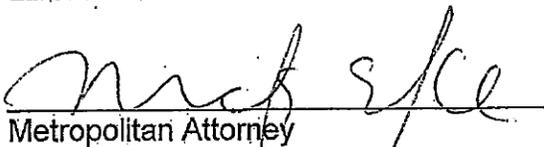
APPROVED AS TO RISK AND INSURANCE:



Director of Risk Management Services

6/18/18
Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGALITY:



Metropolitan Attorney

6/19/18
Date

FILED:

Metropolitan Clerk

Date