

Memorandum

REPORT TO: City Commission

FROM: Chuck Winn, City Manager
Jim Veltkamp, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Retire Police K9 "Stretch" and Execute An Agreement with Aaron Conner to Transfer "Stretch."

MEETING DATE: January 6, 2026

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Resolution

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the Resolution and Authorize the City Manager to Sign the Transfer and Hold Harmless Agreement.

STRATEGIC PLAN: 3.1 Public Safety: Support high quality public safety programs, emergency preparedness, facilities, and leadership.

BACKGROUND: Bozeman Police K9 "Stretch" was purchased and has been owned by the City since approximately September of 2021.

Since that time, K9 "Stretch" has been assigned to K9 Officer Braden Peterson. Officer Peterson has had responsibility for the training, care, and custody of K9 "Stretch." The two have done an incredible amount of work together as partners assigned to the patrol division. K9 Officer Peterson has recently announced his resignation as a K9 officer. Considering how difficult it is to effectively reassign K9 "Stretch" to another officer, especially with the minimal remaining service life left, "Stretch" will be retired from the Bozeman Police Department as well.

Aaron Conner is the undersheriff at the Garfield County (MT) Sheriff's Office. Conner is willing to take possession of "Stretch" and hopes to use "Stretch" as a canine in the performance of his sworn duties. The City agrees it is in the best interest of all parties that full ownership and responsibilities for "Stretch" be transferred from the City to Aaron Conner.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None.

ALTERNATIVES: As suggested by the City Commission.

FISCAL EFFECTS: None.

Attachments:

[Resolution for K9 Stretch Transfer January 2026.pdf](#)
[Exhibit A Hold Harmless and Transfer for K9 Stretch.pdf](#)

Report compiled on: December 30, 2025