



K9 Officer Nora and handler Detective Mark Geer

CITIZENS OF LAWTON... YOUR POLICE K9 UNIT NEEDS YOUR HELP

This week marked the retirement of two of Lawton's finest K9 officers, Rico and Rex. Most K9 officers have a street life of five to ten years because long hours and hard work searching vehicles, houses, shipping facilities, etc. put a toll on the dogs' bodies. Typically the best breeds are German Shepherds and Belgian Malinois, although various breeds have been utilized. The extensive training of the animals comes with a high price tag: German Shepherds at about \$4000 per dog and the Belgian Malinois, which have a longer street life than the German Shepherd command around \$8000-\$10,000 per dog on average.

This week's retirement of Rex and Rico now leave the department short dog-power in this very important unit. There are currently only three dogs remaining in service: Nora (handler is Mark Geer), Speedy (handler is Kevin Shulte), and Major (handler is Christopher Harmon).

K9 officers Nora, Speedy and Major are constantly called out to sniff vehicles, houses, businesses and anywhere else drugs are believed to be hidden. They are also required to do weekly training with their handler to make sure they stay on top of their game. It is absolutely imperative that the K9 ranks be filled as soon as possible.

This month the Lawton Citizens Police Academy Alumni are trying to raise the needed funds to purchase additional dogs. The LCPAAA is a non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible.

If you can help with any amount, please send a check or money order payable to LCPAAA, c/o Lawton Police Department, 10 SW 4th St, Lawton, OK 73501. Please indicate on the donation that you want it to go to the K9 Unit.

On April 2nd, 2011 from 5:00 to 8PM, the LCPAAA will be holding a Spaghetti Dinner to raise funds and there will be a demonstration by the K9 Unit. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for kids under 10 years of age. The event will be held at the Knights of Columbus Building at 911 NW Hilltop Rd, Lawton, OK. If you are interested in attending, please contact Margaret at maggie1705@aol.com (ph: 591-6300) or Bonnie at bjfromok@sbcglobal.net.

K9 Officer Nora proves she isn't just another pretty face by the numbers:

112 vehicles sniffs, 80 narcotic arrests, 13 cases made, 2 search warrants based off of Nora's alerts, Marijuana seized 17,082.4 grams, Methamphetamine seized 17.7 grams, Cocaine seized 31.3 grams and Four (4) vehicles seized. Approximate street value of seized narcotics is \$85,000.00 dollars.

K9 Officer Rico (now retired) made a lot of drug dealers and users very unhappy during his career:

1,980 vehicle sniffs, 1,082 narcotic arrests, four (4) vehicles seized, approximately \$10,000.00 dollars seized and fifteen guns seized.