



LEA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Byron Wester • Sheriff

1417 S. Commercial
Lovington, NM 88260
Phone: 575-396-3611
Fax: 575-396-6242

News Release



Lea County Sheriff's Office K9 Rico to get body armor

Lea County Sheriff's Office K9 Rico will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501c (3) 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 was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially lifesaving body armor for their four-legged K9 officers. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provided over 2,800 protective vests, in 50 states, through private and corporate donations, at a cost of over 2.4 million dollars.



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The program is open to dogs actively employed in the U.S. with law enforcement or related agencies who are certified and at least 20 months of age. New K9 graduates, as well as K9s with expired vests, are eligible to participate.

The donation to provide one protective vest for a law enforcement K9 is \$950.00. Each vest has a value between \$1,744 – \$2,283 and a five-year warranty, and an average weight of 4-5 lbs. There is an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States. For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts tax-deductible donations of any denomination at www.vik9s.org or mailed to P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718.

The Lea County Sheriff's Office would like to thank Vested Interest in K9's for assisting us in protecting a valuable member of our team. Deputy Castillo and K9 Rico will be able to deploy with more confidence and safety while conducting patrol activities, narcotic search's and assisting in S.W.A.T. Operations.

The Lea County Sheriff's Office would like to remind citizens to request a Deputy to please call the Lea County Sheriff's Office at (575) 396-3611 or to report criminal or suspicious activities to the Lea County Crime Stoppers at (575) 393-8005. Caller may remain anonymous.

Anthony Budrow, Chief Deputy

Lea County Sheriff's Office

(575) 396-8200 Office

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