

**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

**HENDERSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MEETING DATE:** August 7, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Transfer of Ownership of K-9 Ranger

**PRESENTER:** Sheriff Lowell S. Griffin

**ATTACHMENTS:** Yes  
1. K9 Disposition Agreement

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

The Sheriff's Department is requesting that the Board approve the transfer of ownership of K9 Ranger to his handler, Ben Hawkins. K9 Ranger has served the citizens of this county well but is nearing the end of his potential service life and the end of his life expectancy. Ben Hawkins has been his sole trainer, partner, and handler of Ranger for Ranger's entire service career. Ben Hawkins is aware of the inherent risks associated with retired service K9s, is willing to accept such risk, and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Henderson County from any and all claims or cause of action whatsoever arising from K-9 Ranger as well as to assume all responsibility for feeding, care, and veterinary expenses.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

The Board is requested to approve the attached K9 Disposition Agreement to transfer the ownership of K9 Ranger to his handler, Ben Hawkins, pursuant to NC General Statute 20-187.4, which permits any governmental unit to transfer ownership of any service animal to the handler of said animal at the time at which the service animal is no longer able or fit for further service.

**Suggested Motion:**

*I move the Board of Commissioners approve the attached K9 Disposition Agreement to allow his handler, Ben Hawkins, to purchase K9 Ranger and ownership be transferred.*

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**COUNTY OF HENDERSON**

**K9 DISPOSITION AGREEMENT**

**THIS AGREEMENT** is made and entered into this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023, by and between Ben Hawkins and the County of Henderson, a political subdivision of the State of North Carolina and body politic and corporate, hereinafter "Henderson County".

**WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS**, Henderson County is the owner of a certain Malinois canine (K-9), hereinafter "Ranger", whose date of birth is June 26, 2016 and further identified by microchip number 528210004244639, and

**WHEREAS**, NC General Statute 20-187.4 permits any governmental unit to transfer ownership of any service animal to the handler of said service animal at the time at which the service animal is no longer able or fit for further service, and

**WHEREAS**, Henderson County is desirous of retiring K9 Ranger from service with the Henderson County Sheriff's Office due to Ranger having reached the end of his potential service life and nearing the end of his life expectancy, and

**WHEREAS**, Ben Hawkins has been the sole trainer, partner, and handler of Ranger for Ranger's entire service career. Ben Hawkins is aware of the inherent risks associated with retired service K9s is willing to accept such risks and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Henderson County from any and all claims or any cause of action whatsoever arising from K9 Ranger as well as to assume all responsibility for feeding, care and veterinary expenses.

**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the sum of One (\$1.00) Dollar, the sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Ben Hawkins shall pay to Henderson County the sum of One (\$1.00) Dollar,
2. Henderson County shall transfer ownership of K9 Ranger to Ben Hawkins, and
3. Ben Hawkins shall indemnify and hold harmless Henderson County from any and all claims or cause of action arising out of the K9 Ranger.

This the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman  
Henderson County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

---

**Ben Hawkins**  
**Deputy Sheriff**  
**Henderson County Sheriff's Office**