

Project Summary: Kentucky K9 Search and Rescue Foundation Boat Acquisition

The Kentucky K9 Search and Rescue Foundation is seeking funding to acquire a specialized search and recovery boat to enhance our K9 water recovery capabilities, a vital but often underappreciated resource for the Greater Owensboro Area and communities across Kentucky. K9 water recovery teams are specially trained to locate human remains and drowning victims in lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water. These teams play a critical role in search and rescue operations, bringing closure to grieving families and providing crucial support to law enforcement.

Community Need

Kentucky faces significant challenges when it comes to locating missing persons, particularly in rural areas with extensive waterways. According to data from the Kentucky State Police, numerous people go missing across the state each year, with many cases involving lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water. These environments present unique challenges for search and recovery, as traditional methods are often ineffective in submerged areas. This highlights the need for specialized K9 water recovery teams trained to locate human remains in water-based environments.

A recent case in Brandenburg, KY, on August 17, 2024, illustrates this urgency. A 15-year-old male tragically leaped off a bridge and went missing in the river. His body was not recovered until days later by sonar, a delay that could have been shortened had K9 cadaver teams been deployed earlier. With the right equipment, such as a dedicated search and recovery boat, K9 teams could have assisted local authorities sooner, potentially reducing the emotional toll on the family. This case demonstrates the critical need for public awareness of K9 water recovery resources and the importance of having this service available at no charge to families or emergency services.

Currently, there are limited K9 water recovery resources across Kentucky. Many communities are unaware of this valuable resource until it is urgently needed. Addressing this gap will enhance the ability of K9 teams to respond to water-related tragedies such as drownings, boat accidents, floods, and other missing persons incidents. Having access to this specialized recovery capability could mean the difference between prolonged uncertainty for families and timely recoveries.

The Kentucky K9 Search and Rescue Foundation's mission is to be a critical resource in these situations by providing handlers with specially trained dogs capable of detecting human remains underwater. Securing a dedicated search and recovery boat will drastically improve the likelihood of faster, more successful recoveries, reduce the burden on local law enforcement, and ensure that families are not left without answers during emotionally taxing events.

Project Impact

The acquisition of this specialized search and recovery boat will directly enhance the operational capacity of the Kentucky K9 Search and Rescue Foundation. The trained K9 teams will have the necessary tools to respond quickly and effectively to incidents on or near water. The boat will allow K9 teams to expand their search range, improve the safety of handlers and dogs, and significantly increase the likelihood of locating human remains in submerged environments.

In addition to real-time recovery efforts, the boat will serve as a critical resource for the training and development of K9 teams in the region and beyond. On-the-water training sessions with local SAR K9 teams and handlers from surrounding states will ensure that both dogs and handlers are fully prepared for actual recovery operations. The boat will provide a consistent and controlled training environment where K9s can practice detecting human remains in various water conditions and scenarios, enhancing their accuracy and effectiveness during live searches.

Given that Kentucky is home to an extensive network of lakes, rivers, and streams, this resource is crucial for responding to water-based missing persons cases. The impact of this project will be felt statewide, particularly in rural areas with limited access to specialized resources. With this boat, the Kentucky K9 Search and Rescue Foundation will not only assist in local cases but also support surrounding counties and regions, filling a critical gap in Kentucky's search and rescue infrastructure.

Long-Term Value and Transformational Impact

The presence of a trained K9 water recovery team equipped with the proper tools provides peace of mind for families and communities, knowing that every resource is being employed in the search for missing loved ones. The boat will allow the foundation to better serve the public by working closely with law enforcement and emergency management agencies to deliver timely results and bring closure to families in distress.

In the long term, this project will foster stronger partnerships between the Kentucky K9 Search and Rescue Foundation and local government agencies, solidifying the foundation's role as the go-to resource for water-based missing persons cases. The boat will also allow for public demonstrations and educational efforts, raising awareness about the importance of this life-saving resource and ensuring that communities know how to respond when such a situation arises.

By supporting this project, the community is investing in a resource that will continue to provide peace of mind, closure for families, and a transformational impact on the safety and well-being of Kentuckians statewide.

Grant Capital Request Form

1. Organization Details

Organization Name: Kentucky K9 Search and Rescue Foundation

Address: P.O. Box 397 Lewisport, KY 42351

Contact Person: Amy Tipton

Email: amy@kyk9sar.com

Phone Number: 270-316-6354

2. Project Description

Project Name: K9 Search and Rescue Boat Purchase Project Duration: 12 months

Total Funding Requested: \$36,065

Project Overview: This project aims to purchase a specialized boat to enhance the capabilities of the Kentucky K9 Search and Rescue Foundation in conducting water-based search and rescue/recovery operations. The boat will be equipped with essential accessories and will support the training and certification of K9 handlers as well as utilized for missions.

3. Budget Breakdown

Category	Details	Amount
Income		\$36,065
Grant Request		\$34,000
Expenses		\$36,065
Equipment Purchase	2024 Tracker Boat	\$15,720
	2024 Mercury Outboard	\$16,000
	2024 Trailstar Trailer	\$3,250
	Destination	\$800
	Prep	\$295
	Total Equipment Purchase	\$36,065