



Rick Staly, Sheriff

## FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** May 29, 2020  
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## FCSO K-9 Axle to Get Donation of Body Armor

Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) K-9 Axle will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Axle's vest is sponsored by a fundraiser hosted by Geraldine Marsh of the Women's Balley Group at Grand Haven and will be embroidered with the sentiment "In honor of Gabo, Marko & Tag." Delivery is expected within eight to ten weeks.

"We want to thank Vested Interest in K9s for providing this vest to K-9 Axle," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "Our K-9 partners are often sent into a dangerous situation and having adequate protection will help us keep our K-9 partners safe. This vest goes a long way toward keeping K-9 Axle safe."



Deputy Beausoleil with K-9 Axle

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

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enforcement agencies with this potentially lifesaving body armor for their four-legged K-9 officers. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provided over 3,830 U.S. made, custom fitted, NIJ certified protective vests, in 50 states, through private and corporate donations, at a value of \$6.9 million dollars.

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 K-9 graduates, as well as K-9s with expired vests, are eligible to participate.

The donation to provide one protective vest for a law enforcement K-9 is \$960.00. 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 K-9s 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](http://www.vik9s.org) or mailed to P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718.

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