



## *Prairie City Police Department*

*Joe Bartello, Chief of Police/City Administrator*



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Prairie City Police Department Public Announcement:

On behalf of the Prairie City Police Department I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to the Jasper County Community Foundation for their gracious award of \$4,000.00 for the 2019 Grant program. All of these funds will be used to purchase body cameras for our Police Department.

As most people are aware, there has been a lot of national attention brought to law enforcement agencies in the recent years when it comes to officer conduct and actions in the field. This has at times led to conflict and distrust between law enforcement agencies and the communities we serve. While at our local level we have been fortunate that these national issues have had little effected on the relationships we have with our communities. However, it is important that we continue to plan for the future and ensure we do all that we can to maintain our public trust. Across the nation and all throughout Iowa, Law Enforcement agencies have utilized body worn cameras to better document and hold accountable police officers' actions in the field. When we can show video from an officer's perspective it gives a powerful insight into what that officer sees and experiences. With the implementation of body worn cameras, we add an important tool to capture visual evidence and we gain the ability to review a situation an officer is involved with and remove a lot of speculation from consideration. It would be the goal of our department to implement the use of these body cameras in every day patrol. This will allow us to better document visual evidence as well as providing an enhanced level of confidence from our community for accountability of our officers.

Thank you again to the Japer Community Foundation. With your financial support we can will be able to complete this project and enhance our law enforcement practices and service to Prairie City.

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