Office Of The Sheriff

County of Southampton - City of Franklin
Post Office Box 70 22336 Main St.
Courtland, Virginia 23837
(757) 653-2100 Fax # (757) 653-9452 Fax# (757) 653-2906

Vernie W. Francis, Jr., Sheriff

November 30, 2011

Mr. Dallas Jones
Chairman
Southampton County Board of Supervisors
P. O. Box 400
Courtland, VA 23837

Dear Chairman Jones:

As my tenure in office comes to an end, I am requesting the purchase of my service weapon pursuant to section 59.1-148.3 of the Code of Virginia. I am enclosing a copy of that code section for your review.

I began my career with the Southampton County Sheriff's Office in 1971 on a part-time basis while attending college. Upon graduation in 1973, I returned to the sheriff's office in a full-time position. I was very honored to become Sheriff in 1984 until my retirement at the end of this year.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve the citizens of Southampton County and the City of Franklin.

The Board's approval of this request would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Vernie W. Francis, Jr.
Sheriff

§ 59.1-148.2. Sale of firearms to resident of contiguous state. — Any importer, manufacturer, dealer or collector licensed to sell rifles or shotguns in this Commonwealth may sell such firearms to a resident of a contiguous state provided the sale meets the lawful requirements of each state as well as the requirements of any federal statute pertaining thereto. (1970, c. 200.)

§ 59.1-148.3. Purchase of handguns of certain officers. — A. The Department of State Police, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, the Marine Resources Commission, the Capitol Police, any sheriff, and any local police department may allow any full-time sworn law-enforcement officer, deputy, or any former Superintendent of the Department of State Police who leaves service after a minimum of five years, a local fire department may allow any full-time sworn fire marshal, the Department of Motor Vehicles may allow any law-enforcement officer, and any institution of higher learning named in § 23-14 may allow any campus police officer appointed pursuant to Chapter 17 (§ 23-232 et seq.) of Title 23, retiring on or after July 1, 1991, who retires after at least twenty years of service or as a result of a service-incurred disability to purchase the service handgun issued to him by the agency or institution at a price of one dollar. Other weapons issued by the Department of State Police for personal duty use of an officer, may, with approval of the Superintendent be sold to the officer subject to the qualifications of this section at a fair market price determined as in subsection B, so long as the weapon is a type and configuration that can be purchased at a regular hardware or sporting goods store by a private citizen without restrictions other than the instant background check.

B. The agencies listed above may allow any full-time sworn law-enforcement officer who retires with ten or more years of service, but less than twenty, to purchase the service handgun issued to him by the agency at a price equivalent to the weapon's fair market value on the date of the officer's retirement. Any full-time sworn law-enforcement officer employed by any of the agencies listed above who is retired for disability as a result of a nonservice-incurred disability may purchase the service handgun issued to him by the agency at a price equivalent to the weapon's fair market value on the date of the officer's retirement. Determinations of fair market value may be made by reference to a recognized pricing guide.

C. The agencies listed above may allow the immediate survivor of any full-time sworn law-enforcement officer (i) who is killed in the line of duty or (ii) who dies in service and has at least twenty years of service to purchase the service handgun issued to the officer by the agency at a price of one dollar.

D. The governing board of any institution of higher learning named in § 23-14 may allow any campus police officer appointed pursuant to Chapter 17 (§ 23-232 et seq.) of Title 23 who retires on or after July 1, 1991, to purchase the service handgun issued to him at a price equivalent to the weapon's fair market value on the date of the officer's retirement. Determinations of fair market value may be made by reference to a recognized pricing guide.

E. The Department of State Police may allow any full-time sworn state police law-enforcement officer who retires as a result of a service-incurred disability and who was on disability leave at the time the Department issued 10-mm semiautomatic handguns to its officers to purchase one of the 10-mm semiautomatic handguns used by the Department of State Police at a price of one dollar.

F. The Department of State Police may allow any officer who at the time of his retirement was a full-time sworn law-enforcement officer and who retires after twenty years of state service, even if a portion of his service was with another state agency, to purchase the service handgun issued to him by the Department at a price of one dollar.