



City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: June 1, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Jim Throop, City Manager
j_throop@ci.lompoc.ca.us

SUBJECT: Renewal of Agreement with County of Santa Barbara for Animal Control Services for Fiscal Year 2021-22

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute a one-year Agreement for Animal Control Services (Agreement) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 with County of Santa Barbara (County) through their Animal Services Division in the total amount of \$334,984 (attached).

Background:

The City has historically contracted with the County of Santa Barbara for animal control services, operating out of the Lompoc Animal Control Shelter. The County has provided services including regulation, control and enforcement of Lompoc Animal Control Ordinances set forth in Title 6 of the Lompoc Municipal Code.

In 2018, staff brought forth the option to extend the agreement with the County for FYs 2018-20 with 1.5% increases each fiscal year, or renew the animal services contract for both shelter and field services for one year and build structures needed for a full animal shelter with both an administrative office and kennels. The latter option included contracting with a private consultant to provide scope of field and kennel services.

At the June 19, 2018, City Council meeting, the City Council directed staff to move forward with renewing the contract with the County for all animal control services with proposed 1.5% increases for two fiscal years 2019-20 and 2020-21. Upon discussion with the County in 2019, it was agreed that the contract amount for FY 2019-20 would not increase by 1.5%, therefore the amount of the contract for FY 2019-20 stayed the same as FY 2018-19, a total of \$326,814. That contract was approved at the May 21, 2019, City Council meeting.

However, due to rising costs in food, medical care, and other services and supplies for animal care, the ninth amendment for the FY 2020-21 included an increase of 2.5% for

animal services for the City. That contract in the amount of \$334,984 was approved by the City Council on June 16, 2020.

Discussion:

During the past year, many innovations have occurred in the animal services industry as a whole, resulting in changes to the services provided by the County. A new director was appointed (Angela Yates) and a new vision for animal services developed and approved by the County Board of Supervisors on May 18, 2021. In addition, the Lompoc animal shelter was closed, in part due to COVID-19, and in part due to the dilapidated conditions of the dog kennels. It was determined that the kennels could not be rehabilitated and therefore Lompoc animals are being either housed in the Santa Maria shelter, or with volunteers in their homes.

The new vision for County Animal Services includes further utilization of a foster network to house adoptable pets, and a new use for the Lompoc shelter that does not include housing animals. Uses for the Lompoc shelter that are under consideration are an education center, special adoption and veterinary service events, administrative services (licenses and information), and collaboration with nonprofit partners. In addition a new Pet Resource Center opened at the shelter on May 26, 2021, to provide free pet food and supplies to Lompoc community members in need. Animal control officers will also continue to use the location daily to respond to, and service, public needs in Lompoc, as well as in the unincorporated areas of the County just outside City limits.¹

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact to the City will be the amount of the one-year Agreement totaling \$341,700, with a 2% increase from FY 2020-21. This is an increase of \$6,716 from the prior contract.

Conclusion:

Continuation of this essential full-service Animal Control Program provided by the County is in the best interest of the City for the upcoming fiscal year because the County can provide the animal control services the City does not have the capacity to provide. The County and City will renegotiate the terms of the Animal Control Services Agreement for FY 2022-23. The City has researched doing animal control on its own, but the research showed that it would a much larger financial burden to the City, than it would be contracting with the County.

¹ Note – costs for unincorporated areas of the County are not charged to the City.

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Animal Control Services Agreement
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Respectfully submitted,

Jim Throop, City Manager

Attachment: Agreement for Animal Control Services