



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Shawn Stringer, Captain, Police Department
COPY: Community Vitality & Safety Committee
PRESENTER: Shawn Stringer, Captain, Police Department
SUBJECT: 2019/2020 Animal Sheltering Contract
DATE: January 10, 2019

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Request for Resolution

SUMMARY:

The City currently contracts with the Tacoma-Pierce County Humane Society (TPCHS) for animal sheltering services. A new two-year contract has been negotiated for 2019/2020. Staff is asking for a committee recommendation to full council for approval.

BACKGROUND:

From 1992 through 2005, the City contracted with the TPCHS for animal sheltering, animal control and animal licensing services. Beginning January 1, 2006 the City assumed responsibility for animal control and licensing services and has continued to contract for animal sheltering services with the Humane Society.

In May 2018, TPCHS proposed several changes to the 2019/2020 contract including a substantial increase in the sheltering cost. TPCHS sent similar contract price proposals to Pierce County and City of Lakewood, whom also contract with TPCHS for sheltering services. Pierce County, Lakewood, Tacoma and TPCHS all expressed interest in negotiating the 2019/2020 contract as one unit, so joint meetings were held to negotiate the upcoming contract for 2019/2020. In early December, Lakewood opted to reduce animal control services and will not be pursuing a sheltering contract with TPCHS and Pierce County to date is still in negotiations with the TPCHS.

The current contract for animal sheltering services ended on December 31, 2018 and reverted to a month-to-month service contract starting in January until the new 19/20 contract can be approved by the City Council.

ISSUE:

When negotiations began in May 2018, TPCHS indicated that the contracts with the City and other jurisdictions have not been covering their cost to care for the animals brought to the shelter by the Animal Control Officers (ACO) and citizens for several years. TPCHS proposed a cost per animal increase from the \$91/animal used for 2018 that reflected more specific and direct costs of sheltering animals to the jurisdictions they are providing services, TPCHS initial offer was a cost per animal of \$150 for 2019, \$200 for 2020 and \$250 for 2021.

A performance audit was completed in September 2018 by the Pierce County Auditor's Office to determine actual costs of caring for the animals that are sheltered by the Humane Society. The audit determined an estimated cost per animal of \$195.



TPCHS and the City agreed to a service contract in lieu of a fee per animal contract. The contract caps the number of charges per pet to the 2018 count, estimated to be 4000, and provides for a 3% cost of living adjustment (cola) in 2020. In addition, the service contract covers all necessary medical expenses for the animals.

Service Contract	2019	2020
All animals held for a 72 hour period	485,000	499,550
Confiscated animals (\$25 per day after 72 hours), additional medical services approved by Tacoma ACO	\$15,000	\$15,000

ALTERNATIVES:

There are no other animal sheltering services currently available.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The 2019/2020 contract is a total of \$1,015,000, which is currently included in the budget under Police Administration.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the two-year contract for animal sheltering services with the Tacoma-Pierce County Humane Society in the amount of \$1,015,000.