



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Danielle Larson, Tax & License Division Manager  
**COPY:** Community Vitality & Safety Committee  
**PRESENTER:** Jenni Barrett, Tax & License Operations Manager  
**SUBJECT:** 2021/2022 Animal Sheltering Contract  
**DATE:** November 12, 2020

**PRESENTATION TYPE:**  
Informational Briefing

**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 2021/2022. The cost of animal sheltering services has increased, so the proposed contract has an increase of approximately \$300K, which was included in the proposed 2021/2022 budget.

**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. From 2006 – 2018, the sheltering services contract was computed on:

- 1) an estimated number of Tacoma animals that Tacoma Animal Control would drop off at the shelter,
- 2) a cost per animal,
- 3) a TPCHS staff person designated to intake Tacoma animals, and
- 4) a licensing rebate for pet licenses issued by the Humane Society.

In May 2018, TPCHS conducted a review of their costs and related contract pricing. At that time, TPCHS proposed an increase to all sheltering contracts that would cover the costs being incurred. The proposed cost per animal was \$150 for 2019, \$200 for 2020 and \$250 for 2021. The City and many other customers believed the proposed increases were too high.

In lieu of a fee per animal contract, TPCHS and the City negotiated a service contract for 2019/2020 that did not include the proposed increase per animal. This streamlined the process and enabled both agencies to plan expenses more effectively. The contract covered all necessary medical expenses for animals and capped the number of charges per animal at the 2018 count, estimated to be 4000, and provided for a 3% cost of living adjustment in 2020.

<b>2019 – 2020 Service Contract</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Total</b>
All animals held for a 72 hour period	\$ 485,000	\$ 499,550	\$ 984,550
Confiscated animals (\$25 per day after 72 hours), additional medical services approved by Tacoma ACO	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 30,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>	<b>\$ 514,550</b>	<b>\$ 1,014,550</b>



The 2019/2020 contract that the City and TPCHS negotiated still did not fully cover TPCHS costs, however, TPCHS agreed to discount the price of the contract for an additional biennium.

**ISSUE:**

Due to the discounted pricing for the 2019/2020 contract, the proposed 2021/2022 biennium contract would see an additional up swing to the cost in order to bring the contract amount more in line with TPCHS sheltering costs for Tacoma animals. The increase is 28% in 2021 and an additional 9.5% increase in 2022.

<b>Service Contract</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Total</b>
All animals held for a 72 hour period	\$ 612,462	\$ 670,646	\$ 1,283,108
Confiscated animals (\$26.50/\$27.30 per day after 72 hours), additional medical services approved by Tacoma ACO	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 30,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 627,462</b>	<b>\$ 685,646</b>	<b>\$ 1,313,108</b>

**ALTERNATIVES:**

There are no other animal sheltering services currently available.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The 2021/2022 contract is a total of \$1,313,108, which is currently included in the proposed budget under Finance/Tax & License.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the two-year contract for animal sheltering services with the Tacoma-Pierce County Humane Society for \$1,313,108.