CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

ITEM
Council Bill 2024-455 – approving a Council Bill that would authorize an update to the agreement for animal sheltering services between the City of Joplin (City) and the Joplin Humane Society, Inc. (Society)

MEETING DATE
October 21, 2024

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT
Health Department

ATTACHMENTS
CB2024-455 Humane Society Animal Sheltering Contract
CB2024-455 Supplemental Item Contract Redline Document

REVIEWED BY
Dept. Head: Ryan Talken; Director of Finance: Leslie Haase; City Attorney: Peter Edwards; Assistant City Manager: Tony Robyn; City Manager: Nicholas Edwards.

SUMMARY
This Council Bill authorizes an update to the Animal Sheltering Agreement between the Joplin Humane Society, Inc. and the City of Joplin providing animal sheltering services for animals brought to it by the City's animal control program staff or by residents of the City.

BACKGROUND
The City has contracted with the Society for animal sheltering services in conjunction with the City's animal control program since 1975. The original contract has been amended from time to time over the years. The current contract was approved by City Council and is dated October 25, 2023. This contract is renewed annually.

The agreement calls for the Society to provide sheltering services for animals brought to it by the City's animal control program staff or by residents of the City, as approved. The agreement includes basic impoundment services for stray animals, or those animals collected for a violation of city code, and rabies quarantine services for animal involved in bite situations.

The Society has requested a 2.8% CPI increase in fees which is allowed under the current agreement. The new agreement specifies a schedule of fees that may be charged to the City or residents of the city for various services including; rabies sample submission, daily care charge, animal intake and tracking, quarantine, euthanasia, and cremation. The agreement also allows for other charges to the City for specific cases where extraordinary care may be required for an animal. Finally, the Society will receive 20% of fines it collects as specified in city code, for animals retrieved by the owner.

The Humane Society plans to implement a managed intake approach which involves the scheduling of non-urgent intake for owner surrenders for dogs and cats. The Society will no longer accept healthy free roaming cats, which is a change from previous practice. Managed intake will allow the Society to better manage the number of animals in its care. Additionally, the agreement defines the terms and hours of special animal care for injured or sick animals. The agreement does give the Society the ability to suspend services to the City of Joplin for owner surrenders and strays when the total capacity of animals at the Society reaches 90%. The Society plans to continue to accept animals being held on a bite quarantine, impounded pursuant to court proceeding or for the protection of the health or safety of the animal when the 90% suspension is implemented.

The Society agrees that all costs charged to the City per this agreement will be the same fees charged to other contract governmental entities. The estimated contract cost for the agreement is approximately $260,000.

The agreement period will be from November 1, 2024, through October 31, 2025. Thereafter, subject to annual appropriations, it will be automatically renewed for four (4) successive (1) year terms to coincide with the city fiscal year unless amended by both parties.

FUNDING SOURCE

The source of funding is the Health Fund.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of this Council Bill on an emergency basis to coincide with City fiscal year.