



City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Facility Dog Program

Recommendation: That Council 1) approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between 4 Paws 2 Freedom and the City of Grass Valley, subject to legal review; 2) authorize Mayor to sign the MOU; 3) authorize the City Attorney to prepare an agreement between the City and the handler regarding the terms for splitting of dog expenses and responsibilities; 4) authorize Mayor to sign the agreement; and 5) authorize the Administrative Services Director to make any budget Adjustments and/or transfers associated with the Facility Dog Program.

Prepared by: Timothy M. Kiser, City Manager

Council Meeting Date: 11/22/2022

Date Prepared: 11/17/2022

Agenda: Consent

Background Information: Earlier this year, our Fire Chief informed staff of a Facility Dog Program for public safety organizations through a local organization, 4 Paws 2 Freedom. After a few communications with the program director, staff is interested in obtaining a Facility Dog for the City. A facility dog, trained in obedience and specialty cues, is used in a work setting under the direction of a handler. Facility dogs are trained to motivate, inspire, and enhance the lives of their clients by reducing anxiety and easing the potential effects of traumatic events on first responders. See attached pamphlet for more information on the program. Also attached is a draft MOU with 4 Paws 2 Freedom outlining the requirements of each party and the necessary training, which would be provided at little or no cost through grant funding received by their organization. The primary handler would be responsible for the dog and treat it as a pet during non-work shifts, taking responsibility for feeding, grooming, toys, treats, and other non-work-related items. The City would be responsible for liability insurance, veterinary expenses (except for injuries during non-work hours), pet health insurance costs, training equipment, and supplies related to the dog's work duties. Attached is a summary of the division of services and responsibilities for Council consideration and the basis for the terms of the agreement between the handler and the City.

Council Goals/Objectives: The action executes portions of work tasks towards achieving/maintaining Strategic Plan - High Performance Government and Quality Service.

Fiscal Impact: Costs associated with the purchase of a facility dog will be primarily offset by funds from 4 Paws 2 Freedom through a grant they received. Other costs, to the extent not funded by the Primary Handler, can be covered with budgeted reserve funds.

Funds Available: Yes

Account #: Various

Reviewed by: City Manager

Attachments: Facility Dog Program pamphlet, Draft MOU, and service terms