



City and Borough of Juneau
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TO: Deputy Mayor Gladziszewski and Assembly Committee of the Whole

DATE: April 3, 2023

FROM: Robert Barr, Deputy City Manager

RE: Animal Control, Protection, and Sheltering Services

CBJ currently contracts with Juneau Animal Rescue (formerly Gastineau Humane Society) for animal control services. This contract cares for CBJ's responsibilities under Title 8, Animal Control and Protection. Lacking a contractor, some of the services currently provided through JAR would fall to JPD. Generally, the scope of work includes:

- Animal control enforcement services – investigation of violations of Title 8; impoundment/quarantine of animals; issuance of citations; response to calls for service
- Annual dog licensing, with special provisions for potentially dangerous dogs including classification and disposition
- Impoundment & disposition services, including reasonable efforts to effect the return of impounded animals to their owners or, where not possible, disposition by adoption, sale, or euthanasia
- Rabies control and quarantine services, including rabies vaccination requirements and tracking and euthanasia of animals with known or, in certain situations, suspected rabies infections
- Animal care services, including placing animals exposed to cruelty in protective custody

The animal control contract is one of the largest annual operational contracts the city administers, similar in scale to paratransit, and childcare. Efforts in 2017 to reduce costs by separating animal control from sheltering with two vendors were unsuccessful.

We anticipate renegotiating the contract for FY24 and expect increased costs, in part due to challenges in the veterinary sector and in part due to staff recruitment/retention challenges and inflation.

Prior to contract negotiation, Assembly discussion and direction on the appropriate level of cost recovery for these services would be beneficial.

Currently, cost recovery is low compared to almost all CBJ programs, only 7.5% of JAR costs are covered by dog owners licensing fees. Absent direction, staff will propose inflationary licensing fee increases. Alternatively, the draw on the general fund (and thus the mill rate) can be mitigated by shifting costs towards pet owners, by:

1. Increasing licensing fees for dogs in addition to what is required for inflation
2. Adding new licensing fees for cats¹

¹ The majority of control/sheltering expenses are attributable to cats rather than dogs

3. Creating new incentives & disincentives for pet owners & contractor to increase licensing compliance

For context, the current annual cost for a dog license is \$20 (altered), \$45 (unaltered) – flat since 2016. For potentially dangerous dogs, the annual fee is \$100 – flat since 1992.

Recommendation:

Discuss and determine if the body has direction to give on the appropriate level of cost recovery to seek for these services. Staff will negotiate appropriate inflationary contract costs and will include these in the budget as increased expenditures. No action by the Assembly necessary at this time.

Given direction tonight, staff will bring a resolution establishing licensing fees for FY24 and future years at a future Committee or Assembly meeting, beginning that public process.