



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 10/24/2023

REQUESTER: Kellee Robertson, Manager, Animal Welfare Division

PRESENTER: Kevin Foster, Chief of Police

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2324-77: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, APPROPRIATING \$15,000 FROM THE ANIMAL CONTROL DONATION ACCOUNT TO BE USED TO PURCHASE A MEDICAL/VETERINARY X-RAY MACHINE.

BACKGROUND:

The Norman Animal Welfare Center often receives general, unsolicited donations for unspecified uses. These donations are accepted and deposited within a dedicated account, where they are maintained until requested and approved for disbursement for use by our facility. This item is being brought forward for that purpose.

DISCUSSION:

The Animal Welfare Center has a full-time operational veterinary clinic that currently does not have an X-ray machine. This limits our ability to treat animals and requires us to send animals to an outside vet clinic for X-ray services. When the outside clinic is utilized, we pay for the X-rays and it takes staff time to sit with the animal during these visits. Radiographs are a powerful diagnostic tool that can be used to assess the following:

- Bone fractures
- Bone density - to assess use of a limb, age, check for developmental disorders, neoplasia, infectious diseases, and malnutrition
- Ligamentous injuries
- Heart size and silhouette - for assessing for congenital and acquired heart problems as well as congestive heart failure
- Lung density - pneumonia and other infectious diseases, neoplasia, trauma, bleeding disorders, airway disease such as asthma and other inflammatory disorders
- Chest cavity - for accumulation of air or blood as a result of trauma, toxins, or neoplasia; check for purulent fluid following trauma or an infection; check the size and shape of the esophagus for obstructions, congenital disorders, and obstructions

- Diaphragm - to check the integrity following trauma
- Abdomen - to evaluate the size and silhouette of the abdominal organs to check for neoplasia, trauma, infections, pregnancy, bleeding disorders, intestinal obstructions, organ failure, and more

Including this piece of equipment in our clinic will aid in determining the health of the animals that we adopt out into the community and provide us with the ability to assess if an animal is suffering, treatable, or needs to be humanely euthanized. The X-ray machine is also necessary for animal cruelty investigations to provide evidence for court. All of the animals presented for possible abuse should have full-body radiographs. In addition, animals that have been neglected may also benefit from radiographs to assess their nutritional status and development.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that \$15,000 be appropriated from the Other-Animal Control Donation account (10-22431) into the Animal Control Plant & Operating Equip-Other account (10660270-45199) to purchase an X-ray machine for the Animal Welfare Center Veterinary Clinic.