



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 09/23/2025

REQUESTER: Jeanne Snider

PRESENTER: Jeanne Snider, Assistant City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2526-54: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, APPROPRIATING \$3,214.58 FROM THE REFUNDS / REIMBURSEMENTS MISCELLANEOUS RISK MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT TO PAY FOR VETERINARIAN CARE AND BOARDING COSTS TO THE CITY OF NORMAN IN CLEVELAND COUNTY DISTRICT COURT, CASE NO. CJ-2025-1164, CITY V. GERHART.

BACKGROUND:

On July 13, 2025, Norman Police Department and Norman Animal Welfare were dispatched to 9821 Little River Drive, Norman, Oklahoma, in response to a complaint of an equine at large and a goat stuck in a fence.

DISCUSSION:

A search warrant was obtained. Officers observed horses lethargic, emacipated and malnourished and goats and sheep with limited access to potable water. Several canines were observed without food or water in a building estimated to be 100-110°F with limited or no ventilation.

Norman Animal Welfare seized 19 animals that appeared to be deprived of food, water, shelter and veterinary care – 6 horses, 7 goats, 2 sheep, 2 dogs, 1 box turtle and 1 tortoise. OKC Equine Clinic veterinarians examined all six horses and discovered bloodwork abnormalities, parasites and varying levels of emaciation. The horses, goats and sheep were taken to Blazes Tribute Equine Rescue. The remaining animals were taken to the Norman Animal Shelter.

On July 18, 2025, the City of Norman filed an Application for Bond Hearing in Cleveland County District Court, Case No. CJ-2025-1164, pursuant to 21 O.S. § 1680.4. The statute allows an agency to ask for a judicial hearing in which an animal owner has their animals seized on evidence of cruelty. They may be required to either post a bond up front for the animals' care or relinquish the animals to the shelter. Prior to the scheduled hearing, the animal owners relinquished the animals to the City of Norman and agreed to pay \$2,854.48 for OKC Equine

Clinic veterinarian care and \$360 to Blazes Tribute Equine Rescue for boarding, for a total of \$3,214.58 paid by the City.

The City received the reimbursement in the amount of \$3,214.58 from the property owners, Zeth Gerhart and Sutton Petz on August 20, 2025. The funds were deposited in the Refunds/Reimbursements Miscellaneous Risk Management account.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the approval of R-2526-54 for the appropriation of \$3,214.58 from the Risk Management Fund, Refunds/Reimbursements Miscellaneous (Account 439-365264) to the General Fund, Professional Services-Veterinary (Account 10660270-44030) for reimbursement for veterinarian and boarding care.