



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 7/08/2025

REQUESTER: Jason Murphy, Stormwater Program Manager

PRESENTER: Scott Sturtz, Director of Public Works

TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF CONTRACT K-2526-15: BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA AND THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY, WILDLIFE SERVICES DIVISION FOR CONTROL OF AQUATIC RODENTS AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

BACKGROUND:

In order to provide for the free flow of streams and stormwater infrastructure in the urban area of Norman, it is necessary to remove aquatic rodents from the environment of these streams periodically. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF), Wildlife Services Division, has a program to provide for the control of these rodents. In addition, ODAFF is the organization that implements proper treatment of these animals. As a result, the City can be assured that the ODAFF officials will proceed with the proper degree of care and respect for the animals that are removed from local urban streams and stormwater infrastructure.

DISCUSSION:

This Cooperative Agreement has been renewed annually for a number of years at the beginning of each fiscal year. If approved, ODAFF personnel will monitor activity and respond to requests from Public Works Department, Stormwater Division staff to remove rodents in areas where problems with flooding of adjacent structures could occur without this intervention. In FYE 2025, \$20,000 was expended in order to respond to numerous staff generated requests for service on this contract from multiple departments, including Parks and Recreation and Norman Utilities Authority. Additional calls for service and reports of damage came from all parts of Norman including Brookhaven Creek, Imhoff Creek, Merkle Creek, Bishop Creek, Dave Blue Creek and various culverts and other stormwater infrastructure.

Beginning in FYE 2021, based on discussions between City of Norman staff and ODAFF personnel, an increase in the Cooperative Agreement budget of \$7,500 was added. Since this increase, ODAFF has been able to dedicate staff to provide a more concentrated focus on aquatic rodent activity within the City of Norman. We have seen a considerable improvement in the response and management of aquatic rodents. Typical response time has decreased from

up to 7 days to response within 24 hours. The operating budget of the Stormwater Division contains funding for this agreement in Other Professional Services (Account 10550222-44099).

RECOMMENDATION 1:

Staff recommends approval of Contract K-2526-15, between the City of Norman and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Wildlife Services Division for control of aquatic rodents.

Reviewed by: Jason Murphy, Stormwater Program Manager
Scott Sturtz, Director of Public Works
Clint Mercer, Chief Accountant
Anthony Francisco, Director of Finance
Kathryn Walker, City Attorney
Darrel Pyle, City Manager