



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

---

**MEETING DATE:** 4/14/26

**REQUESTER:** Jeanne Snider, Assistant City Attorney

**PRESENTER:** Jeanne Snider, Assistant City Attorney

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2526-130: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NORMAN ANIMAL WELFARE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, AWARDING THE 2026 NOMAN ANIMAL WELFARE VOLUNTEERISM AWARD.

---

### **BACKGROUND:**

On May 23, 2016, the Norman Animal Welfare Oversight Committee unanimously approved to establish the Norman Animal Welfare Volunteerism Award and named Erica Loftis as the inaugural recipient. The Norman Animal Welfare Oversight Committee seeks to promote pet adoption, education, citizen involvement and volunteer services for the Norman Animal Shelter and ensure all animals adopted at the Norman Animal Shelter are sprayed and neutered.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Mark Howery has been selected by the Norman Animal Welfare Oversight Committee as the 2026 recipient. Mr. Howery was appointed to the ad hock Norman Animal Welfare Oversight Committee in 2005 when the committee was formed due to concerns about euthanasia practices at the shelter. In 2010, he was appointed chair of the committee and continued to serve as chair or co-chair until 2025. During his tenure, a study for building a new shelter was conducted. He advocated for the bond to fund the building which ultimately passed in 2010. Mr. Howery also encouraged his friends and acquaintances to make donations to Animal Welfare to ensure that the new facility would have as many of the desired amenities as possible. Under Mr. Howery's leadership, the Committee recommended the new Animal Welfare Center be designated a "no-kill shelter," and a resolution was passed by the City Council in 2017. In addition, Mr. Howery regularly volunteered at spay and neuter clinics sponsored by Hands Helping Paws and other animal welfare organizations as well as Norman Animal Welfare adoption events. Even his own beloved family dogs were adopted from the Norman Animal Welfare, including current family member, Roxie.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is the recommendation of the Norman Animal Welfare Oversight Committee that Mark Howery be recognized as the 2026 Volunteer of the Year.