



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-2463, **Agenda Item #:** 77.

7/29/2020

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with Austin Humane Society, to provide animal sterilization and wellness services, for a term of five years for a total contract amount not to exceed \$662,500.

(Note: This procurement was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. For the services required for this procurement, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

Lead Department

Purchasing Office.

Client Department(s)

Animal Services.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$22,083 is available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget of the Animal Services Department. Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Purchasing Language:

Professional Service.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov <<mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov>> or to John Hilbun, at 512-974-1054 or john.hilbun@austintexas.gov <<mailto:john.hilbun@austintexas.gov>>.

Additional Backup Information:

The contract will provide sterilization and wellness services to community cats without identified owners as mandated by the Council adoption of the No Kill Implementation Plan. The Austin Humane Society (AHS) is currently the only experienced organization providing these services at the volume the City's program requires. Their medical clinic can accommodate a high volume of approximately 60 cat surgeries per day. Private veterinarian clinics do not have the capacity or feral cat handling experience required for this program.

The AHS has been operating as the feral cat sterilization clinic in Austin since 2007 and has provided services to more than 50,000 cats. Their clinic staff are specifically trained to handle feral cats with humane care. This program partnership's success has earned a national reputation. Workshops have been presented at animal welfare conferences to educate other communities on beginning a similar program to meet their cat overpopulation issues.

The recommended contractor is the current provider for these services. This contract will replace the current

contract which expired June 26, 2020. The requested authorization amount is based upon historical spend and allowable budget.

If the City is unable to secure this contract, the feral cat population will increase, contributing to overpopulation and higher shelter costs. This could also lead to a higher rate of common cat diseases such as panleukopenia, feline leukemia, zoonotic diseases such as ringworm and rabies in the shelter and in the community also affecting owned pet cats and residents.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.