



Board of Supervisors Memorandum

August 6, 2019

Proposed New Animal Care Intergovernmental Agreements

Background

Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) is the community's largest animal services facility, providing critical services including intake of stray and surrendered pets, sheltering and veterinary services, animal enforcement, community outreach and pet support. Pima County and its partner jurisdictions propose to renew the Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) with City of Tucson, the City of South Tucson, the Town of Oro Valley and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe for a three-year period (FY 2020 through FY 2022) with two 1-year options for renewal.

Historically, these IGAs were structured as cost reimbursement contracts, reflecting shelter intake, licensing, spay and neuter, and administrative services provided by PACC. Although this methodology was functional and transparent, it failed to account for services provided to keep pets out of the shelter environment and did not recognize the considerable community outreach efforts that PACC is undertaking at the request of its partners.

Beginning in 2014, the jurisdictional partners formed an oversight committee (PACC Partners) to facilitate their input and ensure the animal care services meet their needs. For the past 18 months, individual and collective discussions with the partners identified the desirability of developing a new agreement that continues to provide cost predictability but that reflects our current community oriented approach to animal welfare.

Pima County Finance and PACC have jointly developed a cost model based on historical performance that permits the County to enter into a long-term agreement with its partners and provides for scheduled predictable incremental increases over a five-year term. The annual costs for each jurisdiction during Year One are \$4,848,391 for the City of Tucson; \$136,605 for the Town of Oro Valley; \$93,039 for the City of South Tucson; and \$61,729 for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

Recommendation

I recommend the Board approve the intergovernmental agreements with City of Tucson, City of South Tucson, Town of Oro Valley and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe for animal care services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Huckelberry", is written over a long, thin horizontal line.

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/mp – 07/22/2019

c: Jan Leshner, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Dr. Francisco Garcia, Assistant County Administrator for Community and Health Services



MEMORANDUM

Date: July 19, 2019

To: C. H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

From: Francisco García, MD, MPH
Assistant County Administrator

A blue ink signature of Francisco García, MD, MPH, written in a cursive style.

Via: Jan Leshner
Chief Deputy County Administrator

A blue ink signature of Jan Leshner, written in a cursive style.

Re: New Animal Care Intergovernmental Agreements

Introduction

Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) is the long-term, contracted partner for the provision of animal care services to multiple jurisdictions within Pima County. Pima County and its partner jurisdictions propose to renew the Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) with the City of Tucson, City of South Tucson, Town of Oro Valley and Pascua Yaqui Tribe for a three-year period (FY 2020 through FY 2022) with two 1-year options for renewal. As the County's largest animal services facility, PACC provides necessary and critical services to the cities, towns and tribe for animal care, including intake of stray and surrendered pets, sheltering services, veterinary services, animal enforcement, community outreach and pet support services.

Background and Historical Partnerships

PACC is a comprehensive service provider of shelter and veterinary, animal enforcement, community engagement, volunteers, rescue and foster and community resources for all residents of Pima County and its partner jurisdictions. Over the past five years, PACC has taken in between 16,000 and 23,000 pets annually, serving 25,000 to 30,000 additional pets in the community annually with approximately 60 percent coming from partner jurisdictions.

Historically, Pima County has entered into IGAs with partner jurisdictions for the provision of animal care services. These IGAs were structured as percentage cost reimbursement contracts, reflecting shelter intake, licensing, spay and neuter, and administrative services provided by PACC. Although this methodology was functional and transparent, it failed to account for services provided to keep pets out of the shelter environment and did not recognize the considerable community outreach efforts that PACC is undertaking at the request of its partners.

Beginning in 2014, the jurisdictional partners formed an oversight committee (PACC Partners) to provide input and to ensure the animal care services provided meet the needs of the partner jurisdictions. For the past 18 months, individual and collective discussions with the partners identified the desirability of developing a new agreement that continues to provide cost predictability. It takes into account the considerable resources spent by PACC in the community.

Animal Protection and Enforcement Services

In 2018, PACC Animal Protection and Enforcement officers responded to 26,325 calls—an increase of 6,000 calls from the year prior. Each day, Animal Protection and Enforcement officers respond to cruelty allegations, animal neglect complaints, leash law violations and calls for stray animal assistance. PACC officers serve Pima County and its partner communities, and support local law enforcement in cases where a companion animal is involved.

The City of Tucson has the largest share of the call volume at 62.3 percent while the Town of Oro Valley and City of South Tucson are responsible for 1.2 percent and 1.3 percent of responses, respectively. The remaining calls come from unincorporated areas of Pima County. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe is responsible for its own enforcement services.

Licensing

Pima County ordinances require dogs and puppies be licensed and vaccinated for rabies prevention. Licensing, when paired with microchipping, is essential to facilitate the reunification of lost pets with their owners. On behalf of its partners, PACC issues thousands of licenses annually to pet owners and returns that revenue back to the jurisdictions.

The City of Tucson represents 43.1 percent of licensing volume, while the Town of Oro Valley and City of South Tucson constitute 5.6 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively. The remaining 51.4 percent of licenses are issued to residents of unincorporated Pima County. As is the case with enforcement, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe retains this function directly.

Shelter and Veterinary Services

The new animal care facility has enabled PACC to provide efficient and effective care for sheltered pets and a more positive experience for hundreds of residents who visit every day. In 2018, PACC adopted out a record 10,893 pets; transferred 2,161 to partnering organizations; and reunited 2,161 pets with their owners. That same year, PACC took in 17,023 pets with 26 percent of those surrendered by their owners, and 60 percent arriving to the shelter as stray pets. Nearly a quarter of pets that come to PACC have urgent or emergent medical needs. Additionally, PACC completed just under 9,000 spay and neuter surgeries for shelter pets in 2018.

Shelter volumes have remained remarkably stable. The City of Tucson contributes the largest share of pets at 57.7 percent. While the Town of Oro Valley, City of South Tucson and Pascua Yaqui Tribe constitute 1.2 percent, 1.2 percent and 1.1 percent of shelter volume, respectively. The remaining pets come from unincorporated areas of Pima County.

Community Spay and Neuter

PACC created and maintained a comprehensive community spay and neuter program. In partnership with several local non-profits and local veterinarians, PACC provides reduced-cost

spay and neuter options to low-income Pima County residents. Additionally, PACC operates the Trap-Neuter-Return Program to safely spay and neuter community cats and return them to the community environment, reducing the number of cats that require sheltering.

Historically, community spay and neuter service costs were apportioned on a per-capita basis, with the City of Tucson bearing 52.4 percent of the total costs. The Town of Oro Valley and City of South Tucson contributed 4.3 percent and 0.6 percent, respectively. Pima County funded the remaining 42.1 percent.

Recommendation

Pima County Finance and PACC have jointly developed a cost model based on historical performance that permits the County to enter into a long-term agreement with its partners and provide for scheduled predictable incremental increases over a five-year term. The annual costs for each jurisdiction during Year One are \$4,848,391 for the City of Tucson; \$136,605 for the Town of Oro Valley; \$93,039 for the City of South Tucson; and \$61,729 for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

I recommend approval of the submitted intergovernmental agreements for animal care services.

FG:lsn

c: Kristen Hassen-Auerbach, Director, Pima Animal Care Center
Michelle Campagne, Director, Finance and Risk Management
Jonathan Pinkney, Supervising Attorney, Pima County Attorney's Office, Civil Division
Sarah Davis, Program Manager, Grants Management and Innovation