



DU PAGE COUNTY

Animal Services Committee

Summary

421 N. COUNTY FARM ROAD
WHEATON, IL 60187
www.dupagecounty.gov

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

7:30 AM

Room 3500A

1. CALL TO ORDER

7:30 AM meeting was called to order by Chair Brian Krajewski 7:34 AM.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:	District 5 Dawn DeSart, Grant Eckhoff, Paula Garcia, Krajewski and Sheila Rutledge
LATE:	Cynthia Cronin Cahill

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were offered.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS - CHAIR KRAJEWSKI

No remarks were offered.

5. MINUTES APPROVAL

5.A. [23-3303](#)

Animal Services Committee - Regular Meeting - Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Attachments: [Summary Minutes Sept-2023](#)

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Sheila Rutledge
SECONDER:	Dawn DeSart

6. PROCUREMENT REQUISITIONS

6.A. [23-3314](#)

Recommendation for the approval of a contract purchase order issued to Mavron, Inc., for the conversion of one Chevy Tahoe Animal Transport vehicle, for Animal Services, for the period of October 18, 2023 through October 17, 2024, for a total contract amount of \$29,866.90. Sole source per DuPage County Ordinance, Section 2-350.

Laura shared that the Tahoe was purchased and delivered in FY23. Services provided by Mavron to convert the Tahoe will also be incurred in FY23.

Attachments: [Mavron - Procurement Review Comprehensive Checklist \(PRCC\)](#)
[Mavron - Quote Animal Transport Vehicle](#)
[Mavron Vendor Ethics_Redacted.pdf](#)

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Dawn DeSart
SECONDER:	Paula Garcia

7. BUDGET TRANSFERS

7.A. [23-3311](#)

Transfer of funds from account nos. 1100-1300-51070 (Tuition Reimbursement), 1100-1300-53260 (Wireless Communication Svc), 1100-1300-53220 (Water & Sewer), 1100-1300-53804 (Postage & Postal Charges), to account nos. 1100-1300-50050 (Temporary Salaries) in the amount of \$1,500.00, and 1100-1300-51040 (Employee Med & Hosp Insurance) in the amount of \$6,000.00, needed to cover the cost of temporary employee salaries during full time staff shortage and employee medical/hospitalization insurance costs. (Animal Services)

Attachments: [BT - AS - 10.17.23 Personnel](#)

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Paula Garcia
SECONDER:	Sheila Rutledge

8. FY2024 ANIMAL SERVICES BUDGET PRESENTATION

Laura presented the FY24 Animal Services budget to the committee. FY24 budget detail and performance indicators can be found on the DuPage County website at:

<https://stories.opengov.com/dupageil/published/pQhpyFNsg>

Key takeaways:

- Animal intake increased in 2022
- Average animal length of stay has increased 24.5% - mostly attributable to the medical and behavioral issues seen at Animal Services
- Live Release Rate remains in the high 80th percentile
- Fee increases are being proposed for adoption and pet surrender fees
- FY24 budget includes a capital request to replace one animal transport vehicle and the Phase II capital improvement project currently in progress
- The FY24 budget accounts for a continuation of an annual \$50,000 unrestricted gift from DuPage Animal Friends (not included in the Animal Services operating budget)

Laura shared an example of how just one intake might impact the department from a financial and resource standpoint. This week Animal Services was contacted about a dog in need of

urgent medical care to remove two foreign objects. The dog was not eating or drinking for several days. Owners brought the dog to their veterinarian and then to an emergency veterinary hospital. Both clinics turned the animal away due to the family's inability to afford medical treatment/surgery. When owners asked the veterinarian if they would humanely euthanize their dog so that he/she did not suffer a long, painful death, the owners were denied their request because the clinic felt they should explore low-cost clinic options.

Instead, the owners were told by the clinic that they would not be willing to perform euthanasia because the animal had an otherwise treatable condition and is young. They referred the client to seek out a low cost vet or a shelter that may be able to afford the surgery. Laura shared that the guidance provided was not a realistic solution, especially when the care this dog needed was immediate and he was suffering. Fortunately, the owners contacted Animal Services and an emergency intake was done.

This is a perfect example of how an owner's inability to provide care, and a third party veterinarian's refusal to assist, bring these special medical/behavioral cases directly to Animal Services' doorstep. Cases like this require increased expense to diagnose/treat the animal, longer lengths of stay while cases are evaluated and monitored and increased staff resources to house and care for the animal. In cases where humane euthanasia is in the best interests of the animal, these cases also have the potential to negatively impact Animal Services outcomes and Live Release Rate. While Animal Services does our best to help when we can, this scenario is not sustainable.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Current animal population is approximately 200 animals.

Construction has begun on the shelter improvement project. The building addition is slated to be completed by June 2024. Kennel renovation is expected to be completed and move-in take place by the end of October 2024.

Animal Services is limiting intakes during construction and encouraging owners looking to surrender their pet to exhaust every available option prior to contacting DCAS. Laura will also be reaching out to area shelters and rescues to request their assistance with taking in owner surrenders while the shelter is under construction. Animal Services will continue to accept stray animals and public safety intakes as usual.

Animal Services will assist DuPage Animal Friends with capital campaign fundraising efforts. The State's Attorney's office is currently drafting a naming rights policy. Capital campaign naming rights will be available for review at the November meeting.

10. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

11. NEW BUSINESS

Member Rutledge mentioned that the city of West Chicago recently implemented a leash law. Laura shared that county leadership is being asked to review county ordinances by department. In doing so, staff have also been taking a look at local municipal animal ordinances to identify areas where some municipal animal ordinances are in need of updating - especially for municipal partners where Animal Services is often called in assist.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 AM.