

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 4, 2020

To: City of Norman Mayor and City Council Members

From: Norman Animal Welfare Oversight Committee

Subject: Statement of Support for the Use of the Animal Welfare Donation Account

Hello, I am writing on behalf of the City of Norman's Animal Welfare Oversight Committee to inform you of our support for the purchase of several items from the donation accounts that exist for the Animal Welfare Division. The Division staff have identified approximately one dozen items of which they are in need and have shared these through a public discussion with our Committee in July and again in September. At this time, we are in unanimous agreement in supporting the use of funds from the donation accounts to purchase the following:

- 1) new drain covers for the canine kennels throughout the Animal Welfare Center (both in the stray-hold and adoption areas) to aid in the cleaning of these kennels; approximate cost \$1,500
- 2) window tinting in the cat adoption area (east-facing windows) and dog quarantine area (west-facing windows) to conserve energy and reduce temperature fluctuations in those rooms during the summer months; approximate cost \$2,600 - \$2,800
- 3) chain-link fencing to be installed in the southwest corner of the Animal Welfare Center property to serve primarily as a temporary holding for hooved animals and secondarily as exercise/socialization yard for dogs when horses, donkeys, cattle, etc. are not present; anticipated cost \$3,600 to \$4,000
- 4) an audio system throughout the building that would create a background noise in the kennel areas and would allow the staff to broadcast announcements through the building; approximate cost \$7,400
- 5) replacement of glass fronts to the kennels in the dog adoption area with barred fronts to improve ventilation and ease of kennel cleaning; approximate cost \$10,000 - \$10,500.

The anticipated cost for all these items is between \$25,100 and \$26,200, and these figures are well below the current balance of the donation account, which stands at approximately \$126,000. All of the above-listed items identified by the Norman Animal Welfare Division will improve the welfare of the animals at the Animal Welfare Center and are worthy of acquisition.

Additional needs, not listed above, have been identified by the Animal Welfare Division and we will continue to discuss these further at our future meetings. Our only hesitation in not supporting the acquisition of these other items from the donation account at this time is our hope that some of these acquisition costs can be borne in the City's current budget or incorporated into the next fiscal year budget so that they do not deplete the donation account.

We appreciate all that you have done for the Norman Animal Welfare Center including the approval of the purchase and installation of a new HVAC system from the City's FY'20 budget. The Center's previous HVAC system had been functioning poorly and was insufficient in keeping portions of the building at a manageable temperature during the summer. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our support of the use of the donation account to purchase drain covers, window tinting, fencing, an audio system and new front panels for some of the dog kennels please do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of the Animal Welfare Oversight Committee.

Thank you,
Mark Howery, Co-chair