

DATE: 05/6/2019

ISSUE: Council consideration to approve an amount not to exceed \$5,000 to engage Shelter Planners of America to provide a comprehensive needs assessment study for a tri-City / County animal shelter

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for animal shelter study needs subject to like appropriations from Baldwin County, Orange Beach and Foley.

BACKGROUND: In January 2019 I toured the Escambia County Shelter operations with the City Administrators of Orange Beach and Foley as well as other interested individuals. There I learned that their Shelter operation was approximately \$1.2 million dollars and revenues used to support it included adoption fees, dog and cat license fees and general tax fund support. Currently Baldwin County operates the area animal shelter in Summerdale that is often at capacity. Both Foley City Council and the Baldwin County have already approved their respective \$5,000 shares of the study. Orange Beach is scheduled to consider their \$5,000 share at their next regular meeting May 7th.

On March 26, 2019 Mayor Craft received a formal request from Gayle McMillan requesting that the City participate in the joint funding of an animal shelter needs assessment study for South Baldwin County. In Mrs. McMillan's letter she stated that the study would include the following:

- The preferred size of the shelter. Allowing for growth
- An evaluation of potential sites, focusing on those that would attract visitors
- A layout of the shelter that will show the essential rooms and spaces needed for both staff and animals
- A design that complies with current building codes and incorporates energy saving features
- The level of staff needed
- Estimated construction costs estimated operational budget

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: None

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: Should the Council approve the \$5,000 appropriation it will be paid from the Executive Department's budgeted professional services line item (01-501-63311) with an available budget balance of \$152,250 as of April 30, 2019.

ATTACHMENTS: March 26, 2019 Gayle McMillan letter, Shelter Planners of America study proposal

DEPARTMENT: Executive

STAFF CONTACTS: Steve Griffin, City Administrator, Ed Delmore, Police Chief