



SMALL TOWN, BIG BEACH™

**DATE:** August 3, 2020  
**TO:** Mayor, City Council  
**FROM:** Steve Griffin, City Administrator  
**RE:** Safe Harbor Animal Coalition Appropriation

**ISSUE:** Council consideration to approve an amount not to exceed \$35,000 to Safe Harbor Animal Coalition (SHAC) for their purchase of medical supplies and equipment needed for their establishment and operation of an animal spay and neuter surgical preparation area and operating room currently being constructed at 18430 County Road 12 Foley Alabama.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approval of an amount not to exceed \$35,000

**BACKGROUND:** The Safe Harbor Animal Coalition is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization that is a consolidation of three organizations: the Orange Beach Animal Care and Control Program, the Gulf Shores Animal Care and Control Program and the Foley Animal Care and Control Program. The City of Gulf Shores appropriation of \$35,000 to SHAC, which will match the contributions of Foley and Orange Beach to date together with a future commitment by Baldwin County are needed to help SHAC acquire the necessary equipment and supplies for an animal spay and neuter surgical preparation area and operating room currently being constructed at 18430 County Road 12 S, Foley, Al.

To date, the 4000 square foot building, as well as all materials and labor to finish the build-out of the facility have been donated by local citizens and business owners. The construction phase is expected to be completed in 2020. The mission of this program and facility is to provide cost effective spay, neuter and limited lifesaving and public health veterinary services for the unowned animals of Gulf Shores on a fee per animal basis. Currently that fee is calculated to be \$62 per animal. This includes the ongoing TNR projects throughout Baldwin County for stray and feral cats in order to effectively reduce this burgeoning population using the proven and most humane method known.

The SHAC has commitments and developing partnerships with:

- The Alabama Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to ensure that their facility is constructed and equipped in accordance with State requirements and as such, the facility will not be open to the general public and will not interfere with the business of private veterinary practices in our area.
- Auburn University's School of Veterinary Medicine to rotate their senior students at the SHAC facility to perform the surgeries under the supervision of our Medical Director, Dr. Teresa Russell, DVM.



SMALL TOWN, BIG BEACH™

- Coastal Alabama Community College to rotate their Veterinary Technician students to the facility in order to help them gain the surgical skills they need as required by the Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:** None

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:** Should the Council approve the \$35,000 appropriation it will be paid from the executive department's budget line 01-679-60003 Outside Agencies and the current balance is \$218,575.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Safe Harbor Animal Coalition request

**DEPARTMENT:** Executive

**STAFF CONTACTS:** Steve Griffin, City Administrator