

#### Program #90006B - Animal Services Field Services Animal Control Officer 1

3/4/2020

**Department:** Community Services **Program Contact:** Wade Sadler

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program Program Offer Stage: As Requested

Related Programs: 90006A

Program Characteristics: Out of Target

# **Executive Summary**

As a result of budget constraints for FY21, the Field Services program was reduced by 2.00 FTE Animal Control Officer-1 (ACO-1) positions. This program offer is submitted as a request to restore one 1.00 FTE of these positions as originally funded. The Field Services program delivers comprehensive animal control services with the primary function of providing public safety to all cities and unincorporated areas in Multnomah County regarding animal related issues. Service is provided to the community seven days a week.

## **Program Summary**

The Field Services program delivers comprehensive, 24-hour animal control services with the primary function of providing public safety to all cities and unincorporated areas in Multnomah County. Services provided by the ACO-1 position include, quarantining animals due to suspected rabies exposure, picking up stray animals from the public, performing welfare checks, and assisting ACO-2's and law enforcement agencies as first responders for animal related situations (house fires, arrests, vehicle accidents, etc.). The ACO-1 position also assists ACO-2's in responding to dangerous dog attacks or aggressive animals that endanger people or other animals.

This program offer is submitted as a request to restore one (1) of the two (2) the eliminated ACO-1 positions to the Field Services program. The current staffing pattern for the program consists of 8.00 FTE ACO-2 and 2.00 FTE ACO-1 positions covering five districts, seven days per week. In order to provide the greatest amount of coverage each day, these positions are scheduled for 10-hour shifts for 4 work days per week, with contracted services providing emergency-only coverage during the evening/night time hours. There is only one (1) ACO-1 position working any given day to cover the entire county. As such, a reduction of 1.00 FTE for this work unit is a 50% reduction in service capacity for this position. This reduction will limit resources to meet the needs of the community. Specific impacts will include the following: 1) MCAS would no longer have the ability to pick up deceased animals from roadways or public right of ways throughout the County due to staffing capacity; 2) Termination of reciprocal vet agreements to provide emergency medical care for sick and injured animals in the community. These agreements would not be able to continue because we would not be able to provide cremation pick-up services for these vets any longer, resulting in them not being willing to provide gratis emergency care. This will result in longer transit times for sick and injured animals, resulting in an increased risk of unnecessarily prolonged suffering, or death in transit; 3) Response times will be longer than desired due to limited number of officers available to respond, resulting in delayed response to public safety issues such as animals in distress, animals in traffic, and welfare checks; 4) ACO-2 workloads will increase, especially during the peak season, resulting in greater use of overtime; and 5) The program will have greater difficulty meeting daily demands when officers are on vacation or sick, leaving the team even more shorthanded in the field.

| Performance Measures |  |                |                  |                  |               |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------|--|----------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|--|--|--|--|
| Measure<br>Type      | Primary Measure  | FY19<br>Actual | FY20<br>Budgeted | FY20<br>Estimate | FY21<br>Offer |  |  |  |  |
| Output               | Number of calls responded to by Animal Control Officer 1 |                |                  |                  | 1,900         |  |  |  |  |
| Outcome              | Strays picked up from members of the public              |                |                  |                  | 1,200         |  |  |  |  |

#### **Performance Measures Descriptions**

Number of calls responded to by officer reflects complaints received by dispatch that one (1) ACO-1 position is able to respond to and includes stray pick up. This measure includes finalized calls and calls that are still being worked by an officer. Stray animal pick up reflects the number of animals picked up from a good samaritan that did not have the ability to bring the lost pet to the shelter. Deceased animals would still not be able to be picked up with only one (1) ACO-1 restoration, as the priority would be to relieve the pressure of additional calls from the ACO-2 positions.

## **Legal / Contractual Obligation**

The Animal Control Officer 1 (ACO-1) position, although it is not mandated, the community has become accustomed to the services they provide such as picking up stray and deceased animals and supporting Animal Control Officer 2's (ACO-2) in responding to calls.

## Revenue/Expense Detail

|                    | Adopted<br>General Fund | Adopted<br>Other Funds | Requested<br>General Fund | Requested<br>Other Funds |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Program Expenses   | 2020                    | 2020                   | 2021                      | 2021                     |
| Personnel          | \$0                     | \$0                    | \$83,603                  | \$0                      |
| Total GF/non-GF    | \$0                     | \$0                    | \$83,603                  | \$0                      |
| Program Total: \$0 |                         | \$83,603               |                           |                          |
| Program FTE        | 0.00                    | 0.00                   | 1.00                      | 0.00                     |

| Program Revenues |     |     |     |     |  |  |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|
| Total Revenue    | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |  |  |

### **Explanation of Revenues**

This program is supported by County General Funds.

## **Significant Program Changes**

Last Year this program was: FY 2020: 91006A-20 Animal Services Field Services

The reduction of the two (2) ACO-1 positions significantly impacts the day-to-day operations of MCAS' Field Services program, which is responsible for enforcing Chapter 13 of Multnomah County Code. The ACO-1 positions provide important services to the public, especially to underserved populations. The biggest impacts to the program will be a significant increase in response time, as ACO-2's will not only have to maintain previous service levels, but will also have an increased responsibility in helping to transport stray, sick, and injured animals throughout the County. Additionally, MCAS will no longer have the ability to remove deceased animals from public areas, including roads and sidewalks, due to the limited staffing combined with the need to prioritize more urgent concerns such as loose aggressive animals, bite investigations, and cruelty/neglect investigations.