

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action (Purchasing)

Austin City Council

Item ID:

59182

Agenda Number

44.

Meeting Date:

June 23, 2016

Department:

Purchasing

Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a 36-month contract with EMANCIPET INC. to provide heartworm treatment and services for shelter dogs in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$100,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Operating Budget of the Animal Services Department. Funding for the remaining 33 months of the original contract period is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing
Language:

Professional Service

Prior Council
Action:For More
Information:

Monica McClure, Contract Administrator, 512-974-1714

Boards and
Commission
Action:

Related Items:

MBE / WBE:

This contract was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. For the goods and services required for this procurement, there were insufficient subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established.

Additional Backup Information

The contract is to provide heartworm treatment and services for dogs at the Austin Animal Center. A major challenge for the animal shelter is to find permanent homes for dogs that have heartworm disease. Most dogs that are brought to the animal shelter have not received proper medical treatment. If they are not treated for heartworm disease, the disease will progress and eventually cause death due to cardiac failure.

Most citizens that adopt a dog from the animal shelter cannot afford the necessary heartworm treatment and services; the costs range from \$500-\$1,000 at private practice veterinary clinics. Emancipet (formerly Animal Trustees of Austin) is a local non-profit that has partnered with the Austin Animal Center since 2005 to provide affordable heartworm services and treatment at high volumes. Approximately 17% of shelter dogs tested for heartworm disease test positive; this equates to over 700 dogs per year. The animal shelter has seen an increase in heartworm positive dog adoptions as a result of the partnership between the Austin Animal Center and Emancipet. Emancipet's business model provides for all day care at the Austin Animal Center thereby reducing costs and facilitating high volume care.

When a dog with heartworm disease is adopted from the animal shelter, the adopter is provided a redeemable voucher to receive the required series of heartworm treatments at the Emancipet's clinic. Emancipet's standard of care for heartworm disease involves an examination of the animal, lab work to evaluate organ function, x-rays of the chest to evaluate the severity of the disease, and then a series of three injections of heartworm medication. This regime has a 99% chance of successfully eliminating heartworm disease in the dog. In fiscal year 2015, the animal shelter issued 356 heartworm treatment vouchers.

If the City is unable to enter into a contract for heartworm treatment and services for shelter dogs with Emancipet, the Austin Animal Center and its staff will have to provide long-term care for heartworm positive dogs thereby straining shelter resources.