



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** August 22, 2022
SUBJECT: Award a contract to Relief Services for Veterinary Practitioners (RSVP) for veterinarian services and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract for an amount not to exceed \$59,000 annually, for corrected bid number 22-005 (issued as 21-005) with a term of one (1) year with three (3) one-year renewal options.

PRESENTER: Stefanie Martinez, Director of Neighborhood Services

SUMMARY:

City Council is being asked to consider and award corrected bid number 22-005 (issued as 21-005) to Relief Services for Veterinary Practitioners (RSVP) for Veterinarian Services at the Animal Adoption and Rescue Center and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract for an amount not to exceed \$59,000 annually for the contract period of one year with three (3) one-year renewal options.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The City of North Richland Hills Animal Adoption and Rescue Center (AARC) is required by State law to have all adopted animals spayed or neutered and rabies vaccinated at the time of adoption. In FY17 the Neighborhood Services Department looked into the feasibility of the AARC providing in-house spay/neuter surgeries, rabies vaccination and wellness care for animals in our custody using an in-house, contract veterinarian instead of outsourcing these procedures to area veterinarians. Funds were reallocated and approved by the City Council, and the AARC began using a contract veterinarian and veterinarian technician, to provide these procedures at the shelter.

The AARC has realized cost savings from using an in-house contract veterinarian and Animal Control Officers have been able to spend more time in the field since they are not transporting animals to area offices for procedures. In addition, the AARC's live release rate has increased every year for the past 5 years, and has not euthanized any healthy, adoptable dogs or cats during that period of time. Only dogs and cats with severe illness, injury, and/or behavioral challenges that pose a risk to public health and/or safety are euthanized. The current live release rate is 98.1% up from 58.4% 5 years ago.



The current contract has expired, and a request for proposals was issued to establish a new contract for veterinarian services. Bid number 21-005 was issued in error. The corrected bid number is 22-005. The only bid received was from RSVP, our current contract veterinarian service provider. The new contract proposes to provide a veterinarian at the cost of \$875/day and a veterinarian technician for \$31/hour as well as the annual Drug Enforcement Administration license usage fee of \$800 per year. Animal Services estimates 10-15 animals a week require spay/neuter surgeries and a veterinarian would be able to accomplish this amount 1-day a week. Other costs incurred would be for supplies, equipment and medication. Even though the veterinarian services would be for in-house animals only, the AARC could use the contract veterinarian for low-cost rabies vaccinations, city license and microchip clinics to the public on an increased basis from the currently provided twice/year schedule. The contract term is for one (1) year with three (3) one-year renewals. The compensation for the contract is \$59,000 annually, with a total contract amount not to exceed \$236,000 if all renewals are exercised. Provided funds are appropriated in the city's annual budget for the renewal years, and the terms and conditions of the contract do not change, the remaining renewals will not require additional City Council approval.

The proposed contract rates are an increase over current rates as a result of increased costs for medical supplies, medications and services. The increased rates can be accommodated in the AARC's annual budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Award a contract to Relief Services for Veterinary Practitioners (RSVP) for veterinarian services and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract for an amount not to exceed \$59,000 annually, for corrected bid number 22-005 (issued as 21-005) with a term of one (1) year with three (3) one-year renewal options.