

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 08/12/25

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 25-0703

LOG NAME: 23TVMDL RENEWAL

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize the Execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory for Necropsy and Laboratory Testing Services in an Annual Amount Up to \$200,000.00 for the Initial Term and Authorize Four One-Year Renewal Options for the Same Amount for the Code Compliance Department

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the execution of a professional services agreement with Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory for necropsy and laboratory testing services in an annual amount up to \$200,000.00 for the initial term and authorize four one-year renewal options for the same amount for the Code Compliance Department.

DISCUSSION:

The Code Compliance Department is approaching the expiration of our current professional services agreement with Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) for necropsy, histopathology and other laboratory testing services for the City's animal control and sheltering services. The City will utilize this agreement to accurately and timely obtain results for infectious diseases found in animals housed at the City of Fort Worth (City) Animal Care and Control facilities.

These services involve veterinary pathology, necropsies, and advanced diagnostic laboratory testing for shelter animals. These services are not considered routine veterinary care— they require specialized expertise in animal disease identification, pathology, microbiology, virology, toxicology, and molecular diagnostics. Performing a necropsy (animal autopsy) involves gross anatomical examination paired with histopathological analysis at the microscopic level, requiring veterinary pathologists with advanced training beyond a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree.

TVMDL's necropsy services include both gross and microscopic examination by veterinary pathologists who are specifically trained to determine cause of death, differentiate between trauma, infectious disease, and toxic exposures, and provide legally defensible reports for use in criminal investigations if needed.

FUNDING: The maximum amount allowed under this agreement will be \$200,000.00; however the actual amount used will be based on the need of the department and available budget. The current Fiscal Year 2025 annual department budget for Drugs Medicine and Labs is \$950,300.00.

Funding is budgeted in the General Operating & Maintenance category in the General Fund for the Code Compliance Department.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE ORDER: An administrative change order or increase may be made by the City Manager up to the amount allowed by relevant law and the Fort Worth City Code and does not require specific City Council approval as long as sufficient funds have been appropriated.

AGREEMENT TERMS: Upon City Council approval, this agreement shall begin upon execution and shall expire one year from that date.

RENEWAL OPTIONS: The City shall have four one-year options to renew the Agreement. This action does not require specific City Council approval provided that the City Council has appropriated sufficient funds to satisfy the City's obligations during the renewal term.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This contract will be with a governmental entity, state agency or public institution of higher education: Texas A&M

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendation funds are available in the current operating budget, as previously appropriated, and upon adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget by the City Council, funds will be available in the Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget, as appropriated, in the General Fund. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Code Compliance Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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