Cook County Animal Shelter Grant Program

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COOK COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER GRANT PROGRAM

• Funded at $8 million to be disbursed to two or more animal shelters
• Used for capital improvements only
• Maximum grant level not designated
• Requires the City to enter into a long-term contract to receive and process impounded Cook County animals
EVANSTON ANIMAL SHELTER

• City of Evanston owns an animal shelter building at 2310 Oakton Street. The City is responsible for all maintenance and repairs at the existing facility.
• The Evanston Animal Shelter Association (EASA) is contracted to operate the shelter.
EASA OPERATIONS

• City of Evanston provides partial funding to EASA
  • $65,000/year for 2 full-time employees
  • $35,000/year for supply costs
• Actual EASA Budget = $300,000
EASA OPERATIONS

- EASA processes over 570 animals/year
- Shelter is staffed 14 shifts per week using 175 volunteers
- Foster homes house majority of the animals
  - In 2019, 169 homes hosted 343 animals
EASA OPERATIONS

- EASA operates multiple programs for residents to keep animals in their homes and out of the shelter

**Custodial Program**
Cares for animals during short-term housing crisis

**Food Pantry**
Redistributes donated food and litter to those in need

**Senior Safety Net**
Financial assistance to seniors for routine animal medical care

**More Than a Shelter Clinic**
Provides free rabies vaccinations and microchips

**Rescue Readers and Junior Volunteers**
Engages young people
EVANSTON ANIMAL SHELTER STUDY - PROCESS

- Original shelter built in 1973 as a short-term impound facility for dogs only.
- In 2017, staff raised concerns about deficiencies of the existing shelter to support current operations.
- City Council directed in-house study to determine needs/upgrades for animal shelter.
- Working with the Animal Welfare Board and EASA, staff toured other facilities, reviewed building code and determined best practices in animal shelters.
EVANSTON ANIMAL SHELTER STUDY - FINDINGS

- Limited capacity for dogs and cats
- No separate intake area for animals being dropped off
- No isolation area for sick dogs and cats in main building
- Minimal adoption facilities
- Lack of windows and natural light
- Inadequate storage and support facilities (i.e. kitchen size too small)
- No space for in-house medical procedures
EVANSTON ANIMAL SHELTER STUDY – FINDINGS (CONTINUED)

- Inadequate HVAC design
  - No individual zones
  - Uneven temperature distribution
- No fire sprinkler system

CONCLUSION: Existing building cannot be brought up to standards without substantial capital investment and increase in size.

ESTIMATED COST: $6 million
**COOK COUNTY GRANT APPLICATION**

- **Staff is recommending City Council authorize applying for the Cook County Animal Shelter Grant**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cook County Animal Shelter Grant Program</td>
<td>$4,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evanston Animal Shelter Association</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
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<td>City of Evanston</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,000,000</strong></td>
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SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL CHANGES

• EASA would fund raise for capital improvement if allowed via contract amendment
• EASA would potentially need up to two additional part-time staff persons and would cover these costs
• Evanston and EASA would negotiate and enter into a long-term agreement to accept Cook County impounded animals (estimated 150 animals / year)
• A contract for part-time onsite vet operations would be needed to meet Cook County requirements
TIMELINE

- 2/24/20  Resolution for application for grant
- 2/28/20  Grant application due
- 4/20 – 6/20  Potential grantees notified, negotiations on grant details and long term contracts
- 09/20 – 05/21  Planning and Design
- 6/21 – 5/22  Construction
- 6/22  New Animal Shelter in Service (earliest date)