

# CLARK COUNTY STAFF REPORT

**DEPARTMENT:** Community Development

**DATE:** July 21, 2016

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Request approval to add an Animal Control Officer project position

Consent     Hearing     County Manager

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## BACKGROUND

This request is for one (1) FTE Animal Control Officer project position funded by the General Fund.

In 2010, significant cuts were made to Animal Control. This action was not taken due to lack of workload, but because of the local and national recession. Programs in Community Development continue to experience an increase in activity, including Animal Control.

When Clark County Dog Control was established by the Clark County Board of County Commissioners in 1976, there were four Animal Control Officers (ACO) and one clerk/dispatcher. They handled only dog calls. In 2010 the Animal Protection & Control program was reduced from 11 employees to 6 not because of reduction in calls for service, but because of General Fund budget constraints. The program once again was left with just four ACO's, but now handles all domestic animals and livestock. The citizen population they respond to has increased 300% since 1976, obviously equating to a significant increase in requests for service. In spite of these daunting statistics, staff has done a valiant job of maintaining minimum coverage and care. The four remaining ACO's work seven days per week, have reached a point where they are refusing overtime, and are running higher than average sick leave rates. Two or less officers now work more than 70% of the time. This touches on three issues: safety of officers, poor customer service, and a physical, mental and emotional drain on remaining staff.

In late 2015, an unfortunate on-the-job accident occurred which has kept one ACO offline ever since. The three remaining officers exhibit all the characteristics of burn out. Something immediate must be done.

Management is requesting an 18-month project position to allow for some stabilization of staffing and workload in the face of increasing work and a prolonged absence of one Animal Control Officer. Should the fourth officer come back online in full capacity, we could cut short the project position.

According to Washington State's Revised Code of Washington 16.54.020, any animal not cared for by Animal Control must be the responsibility of the county sheriff. Given this legal mandate and our contract to provide services to other municipalities, we cannot reduce our workforce nor our workload, without the work spilling over to the sheriff.

## COUNCIL POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None

## ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

None

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**


YES	NO	
	X	Action falls within existing budget capacity.
		Action falls within existing budget capacity but requires a change of purpose within existing appropriation
X		Additional budget capacity is necessary and will be requested at the next supplemental. If YES, please complete the budget impact statement. If YES, this action will be referred to the county council with a recommendation from the county manager.

**BUDGET DETAILS**

Local Fund Dollar Amount	
Grant Fund Dollar Amount	
Account	0001-000-566-554303
Company Name	

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Board staff will post all staff reports to The Grid. <http://www.clark.wa.gov/thegrid/>

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Paul Scarpelli  
 Animal Control Program Manager

  
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 Martin Snell  
 Director, Community Development

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COUNCILORS**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SR# \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mark McCauley, County Manager**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## BUDGET IMPACT ATTACHMENT

### Part I: Narrative Explanation

I. A – Explanation of what the request does that has fiscal impact and the assumptions for developing revenue and costing information

This project position will cost \$37,754 for the remainder of 2016, then \$112,769 for 2017-2018.

### Part II: Estimated Revenues

Fund #/Title	Current Biennium		Next Biennium		Second Biennium	
	GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
0001 / General Fund	0	0	0	0		
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	0		

II. A – Describe the type of revenue (grant, fees, etc.)  
There are no revenues to offset expense.

### Part III: Estimated Expenditures

III. A – Expenditures summed up

Fund #/Title	FTE's	Current Biennium		Next Biennium		Second Biennium	
		GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
0001 / General Fund	1	\$37,754	\$37,754	\$112,769	\$112,769	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>		\$37,754	\$37,754	\$112,769	\$112,769	\$0	\$0

III. B – Expenditure by object category

Fund #/Title	Current Biennium		Next Biennium		Second Biennium	
	GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
Salary/Benefits	\$30,126	\$30,126	\$81,757	\$81,757		
Contractual						
Supplies	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$150	\$150		
Travel						
Other controllables	\$6,128	\$6,128	\$31,032	\$31,032		
Capital Outlays						
Inter-fund Transfers						
Debt Service						
<b>Total</b>	\$37,754	\$37,754	\$112,769	\$112,769	\$0	\$0