



AGENDA COVER MEMO

Memorandum Date: 11/27/2024

Order Date: 12/17/2024

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

PRESENTED BY: Nathan Mitchell-Hooks, Senior Analyst

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: ORDER/ In the Matter of Allocating up to \$10,000 from Special Revenue Fund 260 in the Department of Public Works, as Established by the Harriet Ruby Smith Trust, for Contribution to the Willamette Animal Guild (WAG) Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Program.

I. MOTION

Move to approve allocating up to \$10,000 from Special Revenue Fund 260 in the Department of Public Works, as established by the Harriet Ruby Smith Trust, for contribution to the Willamette Animal Guild (WAG) feral cat spay/neuter program.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

In July 2016, a gift from the Harriet Ruby Smith Trust was received by the Parks & Animal Services Division in the amount of \$126,121. Projects recommended by the Lane County Animal Services Advisory Committee (LCASAC) are brought to the Board in order to receive approval for use of the Harriet Ruby Smith Trust funds. At this time, the LCASAC is recommending an allocation up to \$10,000 in Special Revenue Fund 260 within Public Works to aid with funding the WAG feral cat spay/neuter program.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

In July 2016, a gift from the Harriet Ruby Smith Trust was received by the Parks & Animal Services Division in the amount of \$126,121. To date, funds have been utilized to address facility needs of the 1st Avenue Shelter such as the installation of air-control kennel doors, repairs to damaged fencing in the dog yards and repairs to damaged transfer doors in the dog kennels (BO #16-11-29-09 & BO #18-02-06-05), to improve Greenhill Humane Society (GHS) shelter operations through the construction of two outdoor exercise yards and the purchase of a digital x-ray machine (BO #19-09-24-07 & BO #21-04-27-04), to aid in funding the WAG feral cat spay/neuter program (BO # 21-04-27-04 & BO #21-12-07-02) and to equip

Lane County Animal Services with a livestock trailer for rescue operations and new handheld radios (BO #23-06-06-04 & BO #24-08-20-06).

B. Policy Issues

None.

C. Board Goals

As stated in the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan, Lane County's Mission is to "responsibly manage available resources to deliver vital, community-centered services with passion, drive and focus". The actions of the LCASAC align with that mission, as the Committee has been tasked with providing recommendation to Public Works and the Board of Commissioners on programs and practices around public safety and animal welfare care within Lane County.

Moreover, the proposed expenditure supports the County's Strategic Priority of ensuring a *Safe, Healthy County* through its serving as a contribution toward efforts to reduce the feral cat population and its associated impacts on communities within Lane County.

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

In July 2016, a gift from the Harriet Ruby Smith Trust was received by the Parks & Animal Services Division in the amount of \$126,121. The funds were deposited into Special Revenue Fund 260 in Public Works. Since then, the LCASAC continues to explore ideas and options on the best and highest use of the gift for the benefit and enrichment of animals.

A corresponding increase in appropriations in Special Revenue Fund 260 in the Department of Public Works will be part of the FY24-25 Supplemental Budget process in order to move the funds from Operational Reserves.

E. Health Implications

The Lane County Animal Services (LCAS) mission is: "To ensure public and animal health, safety and quality of life within our community; and bringing about and maintaining an environment in which people and animals can live harmoniously." The use of funds from the Harriet Ruby Smith Trust for the purpose of reducing the growth of feral cat colonies in Lane County exemplifies this mission.

Unmanaged feral cat populations can spread diseases to domesticated cats, cause undue animal suffering (starvation due to supply/demand of food) and place heavy burdens on neighboring residences ranging from sanitation issues to property damage. Feral cats are not well maintained in shelter/humane society settings.

F. Analysis

Since opening its clinic in 2008, WAG has performed nearly 80,000 spay and neuter procedures. WAG receives no government funding and is primarily supported through program fees and generous community support.

In 2021, WAG was awarded two gifts totaling \$20,000 through the Harriet Ruby Smith Trust (BO #21-04-27-04 & BO #21-12-07-02) which helped to facilitate the completion of 800 spay/neuter procedures for feral cats within Lane County. These services (which also include vaccinations and flea/ear mite treatments) are heavily subsidized and are offered to community partners assisting with the reduction of the feral cat population at a low cost.

Trap, Neuter and Release (TNR) is currently considered to be the most humane and effective method for managing feral and stray cats and reducing their numbers. Due to the increased need for feral cat TNR and associated spay/neuter services (generated in part by climate change by way of extended periods of warmer weather), WAG has shifted its operational protocol towards the provision of these services and is making this third funding request on behalf of its Lane County TNR partners to help ensure continuation of said services.

The breakdown of funds from the Harriet Ruby Smith Trust used/proposed at this time is as follows:

	Harriet Ruby Smith Trust	\$ 126,121.00
BO #16-11-29-09	Air-Control Kennel Doors – 1 st Ave. Shelter	\$ (6,358.79)
BO #18-02-06-05	Repair to Transfer Doors – 1 st Ave. Shelter	\$ (9,600.00)
BO #19-09-24-07	Construction of Exercise Yards – GHS	\$ (24,987.00)
BO #21-04-27-04	Digital X-Ray Machine – GHS	\$ (10,000.00)
BO #21-04-27-04	Feral Cat S/N Program – WAG	\$ (10,000.00)
BO #21-12-07-02	Feral Cat S/N Program – WAG	\$ (10,000.00)
BO #23-06-06-04	Livestock Trailer for Rescue Ops – LCAS	\$ (10,000.00)
BO #24-08-20-06	Handheld Radios – LCAS	\$ (10,242.05)
	Feral Cat S/N Program (Proposed) – WAG	\$ <u>(10,000.00)</u>
Est. Remaining Balance:		\$ 24,933.16

G. Alternatives/Options

1. Approve allocating up to \$10,000 from the Harriet Ruby Smith Trust for contribution to the Willamette Animal Guild (WAG) feral cat spay/neuter program.
2. Do not approve the allocation and provide staff further direction.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

The Lane County Animal Services Advisory Committee recommends Option 1.

V. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION

Upon approval, Lane County Animal Services staff will inform the Willamette Animal Guild that the funds are available for use.

VI. FOLLOW-UP

The Lane County Animal Services Advisory Committee continues to discuss ways to utilize the remaining gift amount and will be providing further recommendations to the Board in the future.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

1. Board Order

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 24-12-17-XX

In the Matter of Allocating up to \$10,000 from Special Revenue Fund 260 in the Department of Public Works, as Established by the Harriet Ruby Smith Trust, for Contribution to the Willamette Animal Guild (WAG) Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Program.

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2016, Parks & Animal Services received a gift from the Harriet Ruby Smith Trust in the amount of \$126,121.00 to be used for the benefit and enrichment of animals; and

WHEREAS, the Lane County Animal Services Advisory Committee (LCASAC) was approached by the Willamette Animal Guild (WAG) regarding the communitywide feral cat issue and now recommends the Board approve an allocation of up to \$10,000 of the Harriet Ruby Smith Trust for contribution to WAG's low-cost feral cat spay/neuter program in order to ensure the continuation of the program and its impact on the reduction of feral cat colonies; and

WHEREAS, a corresponding increase in appropriations in Special Revenue Fund 260 in the Department of Public Works will be part of the FY24-25 supplemental budget process in order to move the funds from operational reserves.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County **ORDERS** as follows:

The use of the Harriet Ruby Smith Trust to contribute up to \$10,000.00 to the Willamette Animal Guild feral cat spay/neuter program is approved.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2024.

Laurie Trieger, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners
