



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 22, 2024

DATE: September 30, 2024

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Tammy Wines-Jennings, Assistant Director, Regional Animal Services
775.353.8945, twines-jennings@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Shyanne Schull, Director, Regional Animal Services

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve a new FY25 Capital Improvement Project - Washoe County Regional Animal Services Enriched Dog Yard; approve cross-fund budget appropriation, transfer in the total amount of [\$150,000] for the Enriched Dog Yard Project, from the Animal Services Fund (205) to the Capital Improvement Fund (402) and, if approved, direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary net zero cross-fund budget appropriation transfers (net-zero impact, no additional funding is requested). Animal Services (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

The enrichment yard will help support dogs that come into the shelter that may have extended periods of confinement as well as to support animal behavior assessments. It is critical for dogs to be able to exercise and utilize their sensory systems for physical and mental well-being so the enrichment yard will allow Regional Animal Services to provide necessary stimulation.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Vulnerable Populations and Innovative Services

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action on this item

BACKGROUND

This project was identified and approved as an above base request during the FY25 budget process; however, the initial estimate was \$75,000, which is below the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) threshold of \$100,000. As such, the plan is not included in the approved 5-year CIP Plan and requires separate Board approval.

The addition of the enrichment yard will allow for Regional Animal Services to prioritize enrichment programs that reduce stress and promote the physical and psychological well-being of the animals as well as to assess a dog's behavior for a transfer to an adoption

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partner. The kennel size that houses each dog, (sometimes multiple dogs), is not adequate for a dog to exercise, run, play or stimulate and olfactory or auditory senses. In FY 2024, Regional Animal Services took in 5, 387 live dogs. 600 live case dogs were required sheltering for longer than the 5-day stray hold. In FY 2024, for case animals here longer than 5 days, the average was 20.7 days with the longest stay being 132 days.

Additionally, our 2022 facility assessment, prepared by ADISA Group, recommended that Regional Animal Services focus on modifying an area onsite for appropriate exercise of longer-term dogs or seek out alternative housing off - site.

Regional Animal Services is proposing an enrichment dog yard on the south side of the building [see attachment A and B]. The river cobble, grass, curbing, excess soil and one tree and all the debris will be removed and disposed of off-site. An eight-foot-tall, wrought iron fence, gates and access portal will be installed to enclose the enrichment dog yard. Approximately 1800 square feet of pet turf will be installed with compacted decomposed granite under the trees and along the building/shrubs. A path will be installed from the west end of the dog park to the southwest corner of the building with a new man gate. Within the new yard, on the east side, 13, 5-gallon shrubs will be planted to add greenery and shade.

FISCAL IMPACT

If the Board approves the Washoe County Animal Services Enriched Dog Yard Capital Improvement Project, the FY25 Budget for the Animal Services Fund (F205) and CIP Public Safety Projects (F402-14) will need to be amended with the following cross-fund net-zero appropriation transfers:

Fund	Cost Center/Project	G/L Account	Budget Change
Animal Services Fund (205)/ Public Safety	CC500200 Animal Services Shelter Operations	710100 – Professional Services	(\$150,000)
Animal Services Fund (205)/ Public Safety	CC500200 Animal Services Shelter Operations	814092-Transfer to Public Works	\$150,000
Capital Improvements Fund (402) Public Safety	PW920441-Animal Services Enriched Dog Yard	781080-Construction Contracts	\$150,000
Capital Improvements Fund (402) Public Safety	PW920441-Animal Services Enriched Dog Yard	622005-Transfer from Animal Services	\$150,000

Note: Impact to the County budget is net-zero.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to approve a new FY25 Capital Improvement Project - Washoe County Regional Animal Services Enriched Dog Yard; approve cross-fund budget appropriation transfer in the total amount of [\$150,000] for the Enriched Dog Yard Project, from the Animal Services Fund (205) to the Capital Improvement Fund (402) and, if approved, direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary net zero cross-fund budget

appropriation transfers (net-zero impact, no additional funding is requested).

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with the staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:

I move to approve a new FY25 Capital Improvement – Washoe County Regional Animal Services Enriched Dog Yard; approve cross-fund budget appropriation, transfer in the total amount of [\$150,000] for the Enriched Dog Yard Project, from the Animal Services Fund (205) to the Capital Improvement Fund (402) and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary net zero cross-fund budget appropriation transfers (net-zero impact, no additional funding is requested).

Attachments:

Attachment A: Proposal for Work at Regional Animal Services

Attachment B: Project Diagram

Attachment C: FY25 WCRAS Enriched Dog Yard CIP Request Form