



OAKVILLE

REPORT

Council

Meeting Date: September 19, 2022

FROM: Municipal Enforcement Services Department

DATE: September 6, 2022

SUBJECT: **Renewal of Animal Control Contract with Oakville Milton Humane Society**

LOCATION: Town-wide

WARD: Town-wide

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Animal Control Contract attached as Appendix A to the report from the Municipal Enforcement Services Department dated September 6, 2022, be approved.
2. That the contract between the Corporation of the Town of Oakville and the Oakville and Milton Humane Society be executed in accordance with By-law 2013-057.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The town has contracted animal control services through the Oakville and Milton Humane Society (OMHS) for many years
- The most recent contract for animal control services will expire on November 30th of this year
- Town staff have worked with OMHS staff to negotiate an updated contract for Council's consideration

BACKGROUND:

The OMHS has been providing animal care services in Oakville since 1936. Animal control is a community safety service that has traditionally been outsourced to the OMHS. The current contract, which will expire on November 30th of this year, was negotiated in 2019 extending for three years. The OMHS is paid yearly for their service based on a negotiated fee for service, and the amount paid in year three of the current contract (2022) was \$869,700.

The current contract was reviewed and updated throughout this year with a focus on ensuring services provided address current and emerging issues, and public needs.

Key areas of the contract include:

- Sheltering and impounding of animals
- Seizing and impounding dogs at large
- Responding to wildlife in distress
- Assisting with community coyote concerns
- Licensing and registering animals
- Patrolling the town and responding to complaints
- Conducting enforcement and attending court
- Enforcing violations of the Dog Owner’s Liability Act
- Removing and disposing of dead animals from town streets
- Maintaining appropriate records

The chart below helps to provide a high-level overview of some of the significant services provided by OMHS during 2021, the most recent full year of service. Even though 2021 was impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, OMHS continued to have a significant workload related to AMPS, orders, investigations, patrols and dogs running at large.

Animal control activity 2021	
Activity	2021
Dogs licensed	5,881
Dogs running at large	132
Pick up stray animals	346
Investigations	712
Enforcement	Charges 12 AMPs 144 Orders 96
Patrols	2,776

The management of wildlife is a topic that often comes up in connection with animal control. The animal control contract does not include provisions for removal of wildlife from private residences. If wildlife such as skunks, raccoons, fox, etc. are found on private properties it is the responsibility of the private property owner to have the wild animal humanely removed, at the property owner’s expense. Animal control will only respond if wild animal is found in distress.

Coyote management is an exception to the wildlife statement above. Animal control continues to play a significant role in the town’s Coyote Management Protocol, and as such the animal control contract continues to account for animal control officers’ involvement in the process.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

Municipal enforcement and OMHS staff have conducted a review and update of the animal control contract. The contract is set to expire at the end of November this year and without renewal, the town would not be able to supply animal control services to Oakville residents.

The most significant change in the updated contract is cost for service. In the 2022-year, providing animal control services cost the town \$860,700, with year-to-date dog licensing revenue of \$40,000 (25% of total yearly licensing revenue). Over the duration of the 2020-2022 animal control contract to date, the town's portion of dog licensing revenue was \$118,486.

As part of current negotiations, OMHS staff have reviewed and updated their costs, identifying the need to increase the yearly contract amount to \$1,233,042 in 2023, \$1,185,473 in 2024 and \$1,218,990 in 2025, all numbers inclusive of inflationary increases. The main cost drivers of the increase are staffing, and vehicle related and are intended to reflect the true cost of providing animal control services in Oakville. The revenue from licensing is anticipated to continue at similar levels throughout the duration of the proposed contract.

Conclusion

Appendix A of this report contains the revised proposed animal control contract for the period of 2023-2025.

Over the duration of this contract, staff will be conducting a value for money review of the animal control function to ensure that the partnership with the OMHS continues to be the most responsible way to manage animal control in the town. Outcomes of the review could include continuation of the status quo, or recommendations to insource or move to a competitive bidding process for the provision of the service.

CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) PUBLIC

The provision of quality animal control services is essential to ensure community-animal conflicts are dealt with efficiently and professionally. This contract will have little impact on the public as the OMHS is already providing quality animal control services to the town.

(B) FINANCIAL

Animal by-law related fees are included in the town’s annual budget.

Detailed OMHS Animal Control Operating Budget 2023-2025			
Cost Driver	2023	2024	2025
Animal Care	23,914	24,631	25,370
Medical	7,164	7,379	7,601
Vehicles	205,000	142,250	144,568
Communications	45,200	44,806	46,150
Insurance	13,592	13,999	14,419
Office & General Shelter	63,506	65,411	67,373
Building Repair and Maintenance	37,462	38,586	39,744
Salaries and Benefits (19.86%)	748,792	771,255	794,393
Enforcement Equipment	14,330	8,089	8,332
Training & Professional Development	15,366	12,615	12,993
Management Overhead	58,716	56,451	58,047
Total*	1,233,042	1,185,473	1,218,990

*Costs are inclusive of inflationary yearly increases

The above fees will be reflected in the 2023 budget presented to Council.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

N/A

(D) CORPORATE STRATEGIC GOALS

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal(s) to:

Providing joint services with established community organizations addressed the corporate strategic goal of accountable government.

(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION

N/A

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – 2023-2025 Animal Control Contract

Prepared and submitted by:

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