



Lawrence County
ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

Date: May 13, 2025 | **Time:** 5:00-5:29 p.m.

PRESENT: County Executive David Morgan. **Commissioners** Tim Clifton, Chris Sutherland, Tammy Wisdom, Shane Eaton, Dave Ray, Phillip Heatherly, Steve Hagan, and John Bradley. **Sheriff** John Myers, **FOLCA** representatives Leann Pettus and Beth Keaton, Care for Critters members Stephanie Bonee and Evelyn Russell, **Budget Director** Brandi Williams, **Doggie House Lawrenceburg Animal Shelter Director** Ginger Morgan.

ROLL CALL: Chairman Shane Eaton, Tammy Wisdom, Tim Clifton, Steve Hagan, Dave Ray

Subject: Continued Participation in the Shelter's Inter-local Agreement with Lawrenceburg; Transition of Management to the Sheriff's Department

Discussion Highlights:

- **Myers** stated he sees no disadvantages in the Sheriff's Department assuming management. Currently, the department handles an average of 40 animal-related calls per month, diverting deputies from other responsibilities. He also noted concerns about liability if deputies lack proper training or tools to handle animal-related issues.
- Approximately 66% of dogs at the shelter are county animals. The County currently pays 50% of shelter costs but lacks input in management decisions.
- The proposal includes the need for one dedicated Animal Control Officer (ACO), with salary and benefits totaling just over \$60,000. These funds will be part of the Sheriff's budget.
- During downtime, the assigned officer could patrol neighborhoods for problem dogs. City law enforcement will respond to cases in Lawrenceburg that could result in criminal charges, such as neglect and abuse. The ACO would work five days a week. On weekends, other deputies would "Band-Aid" animal issues.
- **Morgan** stated that the inter-local agreement will remain unchanged.
- Inmates cannot perform unpaid labor for the city, so can only hire one at a time. Since inmates can work for the county at no charge, the Sheriff can use more than one if needed.
- The city is planning to build a new facility to expand capacity.
- Questions arose about an existing ACO truck, but its whereabouts are unknown. The Shelter's existing van is used for vet transport, adoption events, and food pickups.

- A question regarding security cameras was addressed—**Ginger Morgan** reported that interior cameras were ordered earlier that day.
- **Myers** confirmed that the transition could be completed within 30 days.

Motion to accept the proposal and forward to the Budget Committee

Motion: Ray. **Second:** Clifton.

Vote: Motion passed unanimous, 5/0.

Additional Reports:

- **Bonee** (Care for Critters) reported:
 - They receive 3–4 calls daily from residents about homeless animals.
 - They relocated nearly 700 dogs out of the county last year.
- **Clifton** requested that FOLCA provide a copy of its income guidelines for spay/neuter services funded by the county.
- **Morgan** expressed appreciation to the committee for their support.
- **Eaton** encouraged Ginger Morgan to come to the Animal Welfare Committee with any concerns.

Motion to Adjourn.

Motion: Hagan. **Second:** Ray.

Vote: Motion passed unanimous, 5/0.

Minutes Submitted By: Nancy Brewer