

**PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, June 21, 2021**

The meeting of the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee was held on Monday, June 21, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., via Zoom or on-site. The following members were present: Commissioner Bynum, Chairman; Commissioners Markley, Philbrook; BPU Board Member Tom Groneman; and Commissioner Ramirez, on behalf of Kane. Commissioner Kane was absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Melissa Sieben, Emerick Cross, and Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrators; Bridgette Cobbins, Interim Assistant County Administrator; Misty Brown, Chief Counsel; Jennifer Stewart, Director of Animal Services, James Zeeb, Assistant Fire Chief; Wendy Medina, Police Dept.; and Terri Kimble, UG Clerk's Office.

Chairman Bynum said before I call the meeting to order, I do want to do our usual announcement these days that due to COVID-19, some committee members, staff, and public are attending remotely by Zoom as well as some on-site. All participants joining by phone should mute their phones when not speaking so that we can avoid background noise.

During the meeting, make sure you announce yourself by your name and your title every time when you speak so the public that's observing knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and it's also current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General.

Due to COVID-19 requirements, in-person public comment has been suspended unless otherwise required by law. The public is allowed to participate by Zoom or submit comments by email prior to the meeting and those comments are included in the records of our meetings.

Chairman Bynum called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken and all members were present as shown above.

Chairman Bynum said there are no revisions on tonight's agenda.

Approval of standing committee minutes from February 22 and March 22, 2021. **On motion of Commissioner Markley, seconded by Commissioner Ramirez, the minutes were approved.** Roll call was taken and there were five "Ayes," Groneman, Philbrook, Ramirez, Markley, Bynum.

Committee Agenda:

Item No. 1 – 21881...GRANT: 2022 FISCAL YEAR VOCA

Synopsis: Request permission to submit an application for the FY2022 VOCA grant to help fund the Victim Services Unit, submitted by Wendy Medina, Police Department. The grant amount is for \$369,335 in federal funds with a required match by the KCKPD.

Wendy Medina, Police Department, said I am Program Supervisor for the Kansas City, Kansas Victim Service's Unit. So, basically, I'm requesting permission to submit the application and then accept the VOCA Victims of primary grant for fiscal year 2022. That has funded our unit since our inception in 1999. It covers three full-time VSU personnel, currently fund by VOCA at 75% and two full-time positions at the Order of Protection Office that are funded at 100%. If the VSU was not able to receive VOCA funding, it would be reduced to only one advocate, significantly limiting the services available to those of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and survivors of homicide.

The current VOCA grant in FY2021 provided \$371,085 in federal funds and we contributed 20% in match funds. For the 2022 fiscal year, the proposed budget requests \$369,335 in federal funds with a required \$92,333 in match comprised of cash and in-kind as we have historically done to be contributed by our Police Department. The slight difference is only attributed to new laptop expenses that we don't require for FY2022. In 2022, we expect to be fully staffed with a Program Supervisor, two response advocates, two order of protection advocates, and one administrative aid.

Basically, we're not asking for anything new within this program. There are no additional funds from the Police Department being requested then what has been already submitted in the past.

Chairman Bynum asked, are there questions for Ms. Medina from the committee?

Commissioner Philbrook asked do you have any idea how many additional people will be able to help with this money? **Ms. Medina** asked, help like staff that are going to be in our unit?

Commissioner Philbrook said how does it help our community is basically what I'm asking?

Ms. Medina said since 1999, the Victim Services Unit has helped all victims of crime. I can tell

you that during the pandemic, six months from March to January, we served about 6,000 victims of crimes. We did not stop responding to homicide scenes 24/7 to provide death notifications. We did not stop helping domestic violence victims get orders of protection. We're basically a 24/7 service there to aid victims of crime from the initial moment when the report is being made throughout the process during an investigation all the way to when it goes to the DA's Office or Municipal Prosecutor's Office.

Commissioner Philbrook said I know that might seem kind of an off the wall question for you, but a lot of people don't know really how many people are affected by your unit. That's why I asked. So, you said last year, there were how many thousands? **Ms. Medina** said just during the peak pandemic months, I ran some numbers from March 2020 to January 2021. That was about 6,799. 2020, the full year, we had 7,012 and then in the last two quarters I have 1,113 victims. **Commissioner Philbrook** said not that we want more victims but yes, definitely for that attention, so thank you. I'm guessing this money will allow you to take care of these victims even better than we already have been. **Ms. Medina** said I hope so. **Commissioner Philbrook** said thank you.

Chairman Bynum said thank you, Commissioner. That's a good question. It's important people understand the quantity of people were providing service to through this grant. Other questions or comments? Have we received anything from the public on this item? **Ms. Kimble** said we have not received anything from the public. **Chairman Bynum** said if no other questions or comments, I'll take a motion, please.

Action: **Commissioner Philbrook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were five "Ayes, Groneman, Philbrook, Ramirez, Markley, Bynum.

Item No. 2 – 21883...PRESENTATION: ANIMAL SHELTER EXPANSION RENOVATION PROPOSAL

Synopsis: Presentation of the Animal Shelter expansion proposal, submitted by Jennifer Stewart, Animal Control Director.

Bridgette Cobbins, Assistant County Administrator, said, Commissioner, we can also go to Item 3 and I can work with Jennifer offline to get that information so we can pop back and be ready for you. **Chairman Bynum** said I think that would be just fine. Why don't we do that. We'll just juggle our items here. **Ms. Cobbins** said, Jennifer, give me a call and we'll work offline.

Chairman Bynum said before we do that, I want to make sure that Jennifer can hear you, which I don't know. **Ms. Cobbins** said I can give her a call, Commissioner, and work offline with her.

Chairman Bynum said all right. So, we're going to juggle to Item No. 3 if Assistant Chief Zeeb is ready to speak with us.

Item No. 3 – 21884...DISCUSSION: TRANSFER OF PROPERTY AGREEMENT BETWEEN KCKFD AND MARC

Synopsis: Discussion of the property transfer agreement between the KCK Fire Department and Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), submitted by James Zeeb, Assistant Fire Chief.

James Zeeb, Assistant Fire Chief, said I'm the Assistant Chief of the Training Division with the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department. Also, one of my job duties is one of the Hazardous Materials Chief, alongside Assistant Chief Andy Novak. We're the two command officers in charge of our HazMat team. We have two HazMat response units. Support 2 which is at 62nd & State Avenue and Hazmat 3 which is located at 4th & Kansas Avenue are two response units. In 2020, we had 410 calls for service that are crew designated as hazardous conditions or HazMat calls. So, it was a busy year for us.

The reason for my appearance tonight is we received a piece of equipment through the Mid-America Regional Council Local Emergency Planning Committee for a piece of equipment. It's called the HazMat Elite. What this piece of equipment does is it allows us to take liquids or solids that are smaller in granular size or powders. We put them physically into the machine and a machine can tell us to generally, hopefully, a 99% satisfaction with that object or what that liquid or what the powder is.

Where this becomes very handy and a very useful tool for us is our department runs a lot of what we call orphan drums, and it's just what it sounds like. People will abandon a 55-gallon

drum of some substance that they don't want to dispose of properly in a public place or in a private lot. Our HazMat team gets called out to identify what's in the barrel. We have to identify what's in that barrel so that we can then contract either an outside contracting company to come dispose of it or we'll work with our Public Works folks to have them aid us with the disposing of that item.

Our new HazMat Elite will replace our current Hazmat ID, which is outdated. It's about 15 years old. It's no longer supported by the manufacturer so I cannot get parts. I cannot get service done and quite frankly, I can't even get a battery operated so now when we run it, we have to run it off the generator which is a big inconvenience. The new Hazmat Elite is a great piece of technology for our organization, but it does come at a cost of \$57,000. That's nowhere in the budget line for our admin team. So, we're very appreciative to MARC for their help and support, and we look forward to getting the piece of equipment on the streets and putting it to work.

Chairman Bynum said thank you so much. It's really a great outcome, I would say, of the partnership and our participation with the Mid-America Regional Council. So, that's really great news to hear that we could receive such a piece of equipment, especially one that seems to be so valuable to the department and your unit. I think that's wonderful news. I also want to say how much I appreciate you taking the time to come and share it with our committee.

I'd like to know if there are any questions or comments from the standing committee members on the item? I don't see anyone with a question or comment. But, sir, we want to thank you again first of all for all you do for the community and for taking time to be with us here tonight. It is an information item, but we did think that it would be of interest to you that this item is coming to our Fire Department for their use that helps protect the community. Assistant Chief, thank you, again. Appreciate it very much. Anything else you want to share with us? **Assistant Chief Zeeb** said no. **Chairman Bynum** said, all right, thank you.

Action: For information only.

Chairman Bynum said if we are ready, and even if we're not, we're going to move back to Item 2 with Jennifer Stewart and we'll see if we got our presentation ready to go yet.

Bridgette Cobbins, Interim Assistant County Administrator, said Commissioner, unfortunately not. Jennifer is experiencing technical difficulty. She's not even able to join us again on Zoom. **Chairman Bynum** said oh no. **Ms. Cobbins** said, yeah, she's trying her absolute best to get back on. I have the PowerPoint, but she's going to try to call in and see if maybe that's an alternative. She won't be able to see her PowerPoint, but I'll navigate it. I'm on the phone with her now. **Chairman Bynum** said I was going to say, I didn't know if she could call in to the meeting or not, but like you said. **Ms. Cobbins** said she's trying to do it on her phone now. I see her on now. She just joined us. I'm going to move her over to panelist. **Chairman Bynum** said she can pull it up on her computer and you can share it for us. **Ms. Cobbins** said I was able to pull her over. She's a panelist now. I can share my screen with PowerPoint. **Chairman Bynum** said let's give it a go here.

Item No. 2 – 21883...PRESENTATION: ANIMAL SHELTER EXPANSION RENOVATION PROPOSAL

Synopsis: Presentation of the Animal Shelter expansion proposal, submitted by Jennifer Stewart, Animal Control Director.

Jennifer Stewart, Animal Control Director, my apologies for that. A bit frustrating so... We'll work on our Wi-Fi down here at the shelter. I can start and go through each of the slides. I can't wait till we have in person meetings. This is going to be great. **Chairman Bynum** said someday soon, I think, we'll be back together.



Jennifer Stewart
Director of Animal Services

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- The George Lee Dunn Animal Shelter was built in 1987, it was designed to simply control the animal population.
- Dogs and cats were brought in, held for three days and then euthanized if not claimed by their owner.
- Average euthanasia rate was 70% until 2009.
- Negative community relationship.



Ms. Stewart said some of this is very familiar to a couple of you from a few years ago when we did a very similar presentation. Our shelter was built to be the Animal Control, simply Animal Control. A lot of the dogs and cats that were here, they were euthanatized after three days if they weren't reclaimed by their owner. From 1987 until 2009 the euthanasia rate was right at 70%. The other 30% were reclaimed by their owners.

As a lot of you might know, Animal Services used to be Animal Control and had quite a negative relationship with the community. We still have people come in and remember something that happened 20 years ago. We have really worked hard over the past four years that I've been here just to make sure that we are repairing those relationships with our community.

No Kill Shelter Status

- 2009– Humane Society and PetSmart partnerships.
- 2014– KCK Animal Control qualified as a No-Kill shelter
- 2021– KCK Animal Services maintained No-kill shelter status with the euthanasia rate less than 9%



As I mentioned, we are a no-kill shelter. In 2009, the Animal Services Unit partnered with the Humane Society of Greater Kansas City and PetSmart and started doing the adoptions through the Human Society and through PetSmart. They worked really hard for those years 2019 to 2014 working on becoming a no-kill shelter. What a no-kill shelter means is that we have less than a 10% euthanasia rate for our intakes and a lot of times that is dogs that are severely injured or aggressive and can't be sent back to the community and their families for fear that they would hurt somebody.

Currently, we have a no-kill shelter status and our euthanasia rate is right at 9% right now.

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Shelter Limitations

- Small lobby, limited to one visitor at a time.
- One entrance/exit – people and animals enter/exit from the front door.
- Capacity – Shelter is full most days.
- Veterinary care and surgery space is inadequate.
- Storage space – limited to the garage and a small shed.
- Laundry/dishes/food prep/veterinary care is all in one room.
- Staff rotate using computers due to lack of work space.
- Parking can only accommodate staff.
- No indoor area for dogs to socialize and exercise.
- No dedicated adoption space.

Since we have a low euthanasia rate, our shelter is always full. We have quite a few limitations. I think most of you have been down here to the shelter at one point or another. We have a small lobby. Our entrance is entrance and exit. It's the same. Somebody could be bringing in a dog and somebody could be leaving with a cat. We have a lot of people standing outside waiting for us to help the person that's currently in the building.

As most of you know, our shelter is always full. A lot of times we have to turn people away that find stray animals because we just don't have anywhere to put them. We have inadequate space for our veterinarians. There are a lot of multi-purpose rooms, which is fine, but when you're doing dishes and preparing food at the same time, a vet's doing surgery, it's probably not the best thing to do and that just causes a delay in getting work done. We don't have indoor area for adoptions or animals to socialize or get any exercise if it's cold or incredibly hot outside. We do have quite a few limitations.

2018 Expansion Plan

Build on new uncomplicated site a new 18,800 SF 50-year building provided by Sabatini Architects

Estimated Project Cost: \$8.4 M*

Construction cost: \$6.5 M
Soft costs: \$1.9 M
Cost per square foot: \$346

Alternative Proposal:

- Add an adoption center and vet suite to the east of our current building.
- An addition would be a better use of funds than a completely new building with less space.
- Current building would be the intake center and once stray holds are complete, animals would transfer to the adoption center
- Geotechnical study has been completed, approved for building on existing land.

*A building expansion, and increased capacity, will require more staff.

Because of these limitations, back in 2018, we did an RFP for a shelter expansion. In 2018 I did an RFP and Sabatini Architects in Lawrence, Kansas, they've built shelters all over the country. They estimated a brand new building and a new location to cost about \$8.4M in total. The construction cost also included cages and office furniture and stuff like that. I don't have any idea

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how much that would cost now. I'm guessing probably close to \$12M considering the cost of construction being so expensive right now. Kathleen asked me to come up with an alternative proposal and that is listed on the right side of the screen. That is to add an adoption center and have that suite to the east of our current building. I think that would be a better use of funds than getting a new building and probably having the same, if not less, space than we currently have. I would like to have our current building, it's still functional, with a couple of more updates. I think that it would be fine and easily last us another 15 to 20 years.

Our current building would be our intake center where the animals would serve their stay hold. The building that I'm proposing to the east would be our adoption center. People could come in. The cages and kennels would be set up. The people could walk through and see the animals that we have available for adoption. You wouldn't have to make an appointment. We would have operational hours that would be conducive to more adoptions, maybe in the evening or Saturdays and Sundays.

The geotechnical study was done, and it was approved for building on the existing land so that part is taken care of.

2020 Shelter Renovation Project

\$225,000 CMIP Funds for the following improvements:

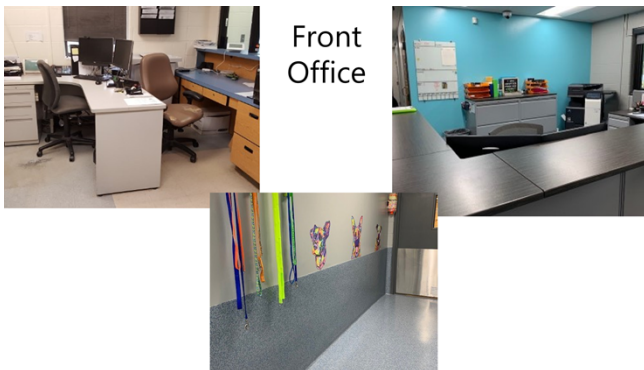
- Shelter Entrance – ADA Compliant Transaction Counter
- Office Furniture
- Officer Work Space Remodel
- Epoxy Floors
- Interior Repainted
- Ceiling Tiles
- Energy Efficient Windows and Shades
- LED Lighting in Office and Kennels
- Remodeled Restrooms
- Kennel Doors
- Cat Cages
- Added Fencing for Enrichment Space
- Repaved Parking Lot

In 2020, actually 2019, I was told that we had about \$225,000 available in CMIP funds that needed to be spent. Prior to my arrival, that money, I think, was earmarked for kennels, which is great, but we didn't have anywhere to put them. We knew we couldn't buy a building with that, but we could make some renovations. Again, I'm sure a lot of you have been down here before. The floor tiles were chipping, the paint on the walls were scraped. It was dirty. It was old and super smelly. We spent that money. Made our entrance and our transaction counter. ADA compliant.

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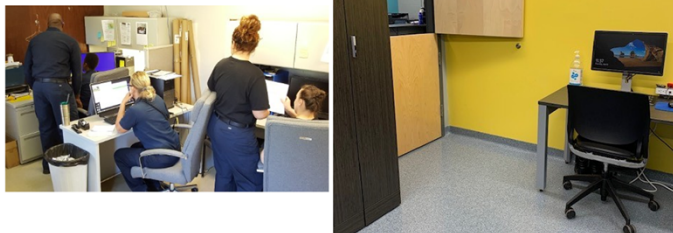
We got new furniture. We quite literally, everything is new in the front from the ceiling tiles to the epoxy floors, ceiling tiles. We got LED lighting; windows that are energy efficient. We also got new kennel doors for our dogs. They were a chain-link fence prior. It looked horrible and it was hard to clean. I got new cages and we added some fencing. Where I'm proposing the addition for the adoption center be placed, that's where we have that fenced off. We use it every single day for dogs to get the exercise that's required by the state and we repaved our parking lot. We did quite a bit with that money. It's like a brand-new building once you walk in. We're really pretty proud of it.

The next few slides they are just our renovations. I know a lot of people haven't been able to come down here due to COVID for the last year, so I just wanted to show. Bridgette, if you just want to click through them pretty quick.

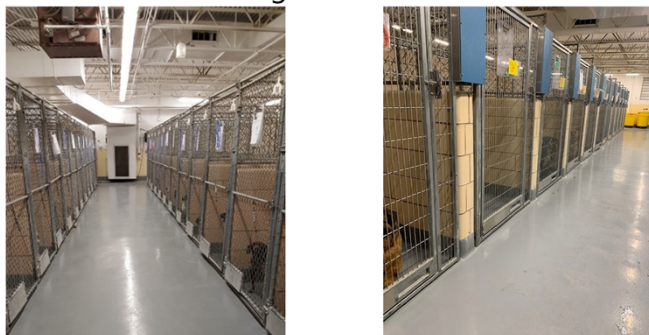


On the left, that's the old and on the right is the renovated side. There's about five of them.

Multipurpose Room – Office, Breakroom, Meeting Space



Dog Kennels

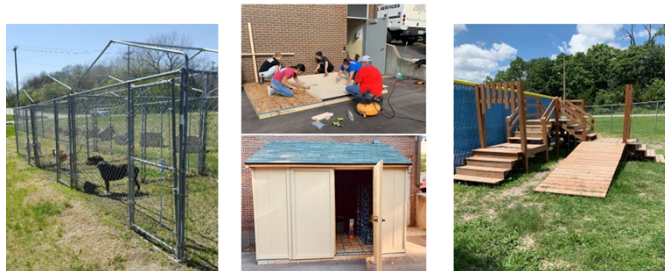


Cat Adoption Room



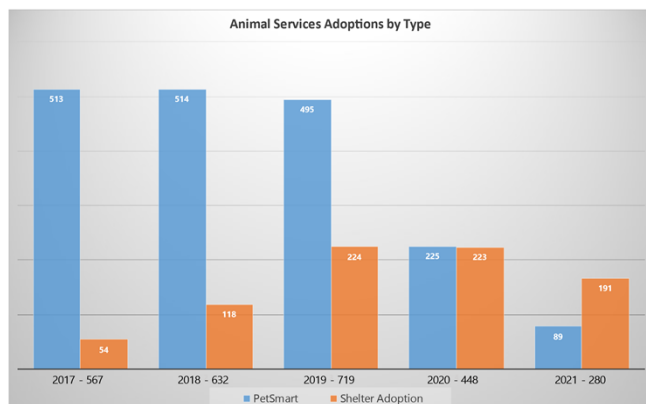
Play Yard and Shed

Donated, built, and funded by community donations.



This one I wanted to stop on this one really quickly. So, our play yard, on the left, that is what is consistent of animal enrichment time. Going from one cage inside to another cage outside. January or February of last year, we were donated a shed and volunteers built it for us and a playground. All of that was donated by the community and rescue groups that we work with. We're really pretty proud of that. People come in just to say, hey, I saw you guys playing with dogs outside and we have never seen that before. We are very proud of that.

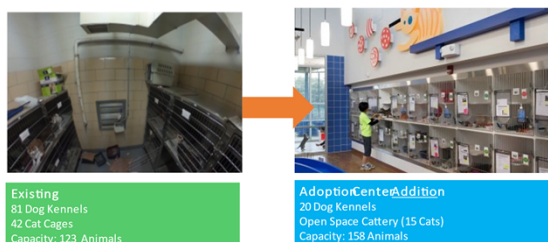
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This is the adoptions by type. We have adoptions either at PetSmart or in the shelter. I started in May 2017 and there was one adoption that was done in the shelter, prior to my arrival. In June, I said we're going to start doing adoptions here. I got a lot of pushback from the staff at the time, but I saw a need so we went for it. As you can tell, it's been pretty successful. In-shelter adoptions have increased by 325% since I started in May 2017. Even with a pandemic last year, our in-shelter adoptions were one away from the previous year. Today, we have had, since last Friday—the orange, 175 is now 191. We have done 22 adoptions since last Friday when I presented this slide, 16 of those were done here at the shelter. There is a huge need. There is a good response from the community. I think somebody walking in being able to see animals that are available for adoption is just going to continue to increase our numbers.

Sabatini Architects Recommendations:

- Increase capacity for adoptable dogs and cats
- Increase office space
- Add space for adoption and community programs



I mentioned Sabatini Architects before. Their recommendation was to increase the capacity for adoptable dogs and cats, increase office space and add a space for adoption and community programs.

On the left was an old kennel/cat room and our existing space is 81 dog kennels and 42 cat cages. The addition that I would like to add would be an extra 20, maybe 25 dog kennels. I want to be able to give them enough room that they can move around comfortably and still have some

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outside space in an open space, called a cattery, which is basically a room well-lit that has just open space for cats to move about. The more they're socialized, the easier they are to adopt. We're looking at an extra maybe 35 spaces for animals that are adopted once their hold is up.

Then, Now, and Into the Future

THEN	NOW	INTO THE FUTURE
▪ Animal Control ▪ Animals euthanized after 3 days ▪ Not built for animal enrichment ▪ No in-shelter adoptions ▪ No community engagement	▪ Sunday adoption hours added. ▪ Adoption Coordinator position added in 2021. ▪ In-shelter adoptions have increased 325% since 2017 and continue to increase each year. ▪ Improved office space and updated kennels in 2021; the space is much more inviting. ▪ Volunteer numbers continue to increase. ▪ Community engagement- vaccination and microchip clinic. Low cost spay/neuter vouchers. Improvements Needed: ▪ Dedicated space to meet adoptable animals. ▪ Sufficient work space for staff. ▪ Parking for visitors.	▪ Full-service adoption center ▪ In-shelter veterinary program ▪ Retail space – leashes, collars, etc. ▪ Microchip all pets upon return to owner ▪ Pet safety and care workshops ▪ Expand volunteer program ▪ Increased staffing ▪ Intake projection – 10% increase per year ▪ Provide intake for Bonner Springs and Edwardsville Animal Control

I'll try to go through quickly as I can. Just to summarize, we used to be Animal Control. Animals were euthanized after three days. This building was not built for animal enrichment. There were no adoptions and there was minimal community engagement.

Now we have added Sunday adoption. We added an Adoption Coordinator position earlier this year. As I mentioned, in-shelter adoptions have increased by 325% and I anticipate they will increase every year. We have increased our office space and our kennels. It is much more inviting. Our number of volunteers continue to increase every single year and we're working on community engagement.

The first of May, just last month, we held our very first vaccination and microchip clinic. The money that we made from that, that money is going towards low cost spay and neuter vouchers for people in the community that can't afford to have their animal spayed or neutered. We're doing quite a bit. We're making do with what we have, but as we continue to grow, we're going to need some more space. The improvements that we need pretty soon are dedicated space for our people to meet adoptable animals, sufficient workspace for staff. They kind of take turns using computers now, so it's not for lack of computers, but just lack of space, and parking for visitors. When all of our staff are here, there's no parking for visitors.

Into the future, I would like to have a full-service adoption center. I would love to see us having a vet of our own here at the shelter. A retail space for leashes, collars, and all the necessities for when you adopt an animal. I would like to work on microchipping all of the pets that are

returned to their owner. If we had an adoption center with a community open space of some sort, we could do pet safety and care workshops and expand our volunteer program.

Right now, we have about 50 volunteers. Sometimes they're walking all over each other. With that more space, we're going to need a few more staff, so definitely want to take that into consideration. As Sabatini mentioned, the intake projection, is about 10% per year as we continue. It might be even more than that.

My super big goal is to provide intake for Bonner Springs and Edwardsville. Both have reached out to me at some point and asked if we could help with intake. When we have a waiting list here, it's just not something that we can do. I know there's a huge need in Edwardsville right now and Bonner Springs is taking, I believe, their strays to Leavenworth County. That's my big goal is to be able to help them as well so we have everything in one county.



With that being said, the last slide is a drawing that was drawn up for Chief Ziegler. It shows the kind of space on the left, the animal shelter addition in the yellow on the right, with more parking and enough space that we still have an enrichment area for the dogs. Those are all of my slides.

Chairman Bynum said, Jennifer, thank you so much for your perseverance number one, in so many ways, including tonight. It's just a great, great proposal. I would be happy to take questions and comments from our committee members, please.

Commissioner Philbrook said I saw in there where you said how much the original proposal was for a whole new site and all that. How much is the proposal now for just the addition and the other stuff we need? **Ms. Stewart** said I have not been able to get a bid on that. I don't know if we'll

have to do another RFP or if Sabatini would still be able to do it. I'm just making an uneducated guess of 18,000 sq. ft., basically triple what we have now for almost \$9M. I think that we could easily get a 3,000 sq. ft. building fully outfitted for, I would say, \$5M, probably less than that. Again, I don't know for sure. **Commissioner Philbrook** said I understand. You don't know until somebody has come forward with the dollar amount right when everything is so volatile. It's hard to know. I do appreciate all your hard work. Volunteers are lovely. It's just like herding cats sometimes, literally. Thank you so much, Jennifer. I know that we need all these things. There's no question. Thank you.

Commissioner Ramirez said thank you, Jennifer, for coming tonight and presenting. I want to share the words of Commissioner Bynum, thank you for your perseverance. Thank you for all that you've done with what you've been given. You've done a lot so far just with you being here since 2017. Thank you for all that you do. I have not gotten a chance to visit Animal Services so I would very soon love the opportunity just to see what this place looks like. Thank you.

Chairman Bynum said we do have Kathleen VonAchen on the call. Ms. Stewart had put it together at kind of Kathleen's urging, if you will, just so that we can, I think, begin to have this conversation because what Jennifer Stewart proposes is so needed. I mean it's so clearly needed in the community.

Commissioner Markley said, Commissioner Bynum, I think we were maybe headed down the same pathway. I just wondered if Kathleen could talk a little bit about how this is now going to play into our budget discussions and any other comments she wants to make in terms of how it would be financed or how it would fit into the budget. This is the time of year we need to be having this discussion if this project is going to be funded.

Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer, stated the initial intent of money—interest in this is I thought, perhaps, there was an avenue for us to construct some facility, maybe not the ultimate or a new one where we had some site location issues, but just to expand using the land that we have next door to the facility. To find out what could we do and how much generally would be that cost. As you know, we've already kind of gone through the CMIP process for a capital

improvement process for the budget for 2022. We're already kind of vetted through all of the projects. I'm not remembering, I think that this project is budgeted—the original proposal was budgeted in the out years with half of it being paid for with capital funds or city funds and the other half potentially being paid for by some sort of grant or community capital campaign, community donations and such.

Now, with this alternative proposal, we'll need to pencil that in and see how it looks. Before, it was half and half. We had \$4M here and then \$4M in contributions. If this proposal was \$4 or \$5M, we may be able to pursue that. I'm not remembering offhand what year in the future. It's in the CMIP. It's a good two years out. We're going to take a look at it and see whether it's affordable to do this project maybe a little sooner and maybe shift some projects around. That's what I was thinking with the support of the Commission.

Commissioner Markley asked, Kathleen, will this be on one of our agendas or will it come up for discussion with one of the committees? What sort of next steps in terms of how this discussion might happen, I guess, is my question? **Ms. VonAchen** said during the upcoming budget process we have three workshops. The first one is July 1. July 1 is already packed. We're already talking about revenues and other things. During July 13 and August workshops, there will be kind of a revisit of the CMIP. I imagine at that time; we'll be talking about that.

Chairman Bynum said thank you, Kathleen. Commissioner Markley, I think we were on the same wavelength here. That is exactly my urging, if you will, to both all on our standing committee as well as staff present that we give this time and attention during our upcoming budget conversations. I do understand that the list of needs is long, but this is an item that can provide an enhanced and expanded service. This is a way that we show both our community and our staff at Animal Services that we take what's happening here with regard to animal welfare seriously. I think you all know where I stand on these issues. I, for one, will be advocating for placement of this ASAP.

Commissioner Philbrook said, of course, I'm on that same boat with you. Better get a bigger boat because I have a feeling there's going to be a few people on this boat with us. It's very important that we address this. Animal Control has done a yeoman's job with what little we have

given them. I know Commissioner Bynum and I have been pushed, pushed, pushed for Animal Control, or Animal Services now, to do as much as possible.

One of the biggest complaints we get is that people—dogs running and having all these other issues. What do I do with my dog if I can't take care of my dog anymore? They try to bring them down. There's not enough room, right, Jennifer? They're trying to do the right thing. Because of all your 50 folks that are helping you out, you're able to do so much more now than you ever were able to do, but we still need to step it up a bit so not all that pressure is only on our workers down there. I'm going to be saying that we need some additional workers. It's not for that. I didn't push for that before because I was waiting to see how monies were coming about because of some additional money that we got, but I want to see now what we really need, Jennifer.

I don't know if you put that in there yet in your budget for any additional folks or not, but it would be nice to hear back from you and from Kathleen on how we possibly fit maybe a couple of more people in there so we can actually do our job. Our folks aren't just so overstressed that they can't even function. Sorry, Jennifer. It's alright. I may have put words in your mouth, but I can image it's pretty harrowing. I just had to say that. **Ms. Stewart** said, thank you.

Commissioner Ramirez said I guess I'll jump on the same boat as well with Commissioner Bynum and Commissioner Philbrook as well on supporting this. I know the answer to this, Kathleen, but I wanted to make sure it was asked. Like I said, I think I know the answer already. Would this fall under the boundaries of being able to recover funds for? **Ms. VonAchen** said I don't know. I'd have to study it a little bit more. **Commissioner Ramirez** said that's what I figured. That's why I said I probably know my answer but I just wanted to get that question out there.

Commissioner Philbrook said, Christian, I'm going to jump in there with you and say, Kathleen, check to see how many additional animals have had to be let go to find new homes. I'm sure Jennifer can probably help you with some numbers on that and that would be because of COVID. **Commissioner Ramirez** said that's true. **Commissioner Philbrook** said I'm just going to tell you, there's a lot of people that had to take their animals and leave them because they had to go to a different location that didn't let animals in or they don't even have homes anymore and they

can't drag around their animals with them. I'm just going to throw that out there to you, Kathleen. I think that is a good idea, Christian, thanks for putting that forward.

Ms. VonAchen said actually, I was just checking our schedule here and the capital improvement scheduled we presented to you back in May. Actually, I apologize, the animal shelter, the \$4.3M that is funded by city debt and then the other \$4.3M, that would be from some grant that we haven't identified yet. It's actually in the unfunded list scheduled for 2026. In order to pursue this, we'd have to incorporate it into the current proposed CMIP, and we'd probably have to take off some other projects.

I just wanted to figure out a way to pay for this project or address the need at a lower cost and see what all of you thought about that. We still don't want to drop the idea of trying to do some kind of capital campaign to offset some of those construction costs through getting donations from our community and pay for part of the construction costs that may really help to bring that project forward so that it's in a funded status. So, if we can fund some portion like half of it with donations, we can fund the other half through other funding sources from the UG. We are going to look at the other sources of funds from the American Rescue Plan some of those may be able to augment some other areas, which would free up funds for this project. I'm not sure that this project would actually meet the eligibility requirements.

Chairman Bynum said I just wanted to say thank you for that. Yes, it's possible that American Rescue Plan funds can free up money in another place. That seems the more likely scenario but, nonetheless.

Any other comments or questions from this committee? I really appreciate Jennifer, your presentation. If there are no other comments, it was an information item certainly to be pursued further by us. It is our last item in our committee meeting tonight. With that, I'll conclude Public Works & Safety.

Thank you, Tom Groneman, for always being faithful in attending. We will adjourn our meeting and I'll turn this over to Commissioner Markley for Administration & Human Services.

BPU Board Member Groneman said, thank you. Have a good evening.

Action: For information only.

Adjourn:

Chairman Bynum adjourned the meeting at **5:52** p.m.

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