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April 27, 2015

Lawrence City Commission
c/o David Corliss, City Manager
City Hall
PO Box 708
Lawrence, KS 66044

Commissioners:

The Lawrence Humane Society is seeking a Letter of Support from the City of Lawrence.

The Lawrence Humane Society is planning a complete renovation and moderate addition to address some major facility weaknesses and inadequacies in our current building. We have completed a professional fundraising feasibility study that supports our organization's ability to raise the funds necessary to complete this critical project within the next two years.

We are applying for Community Tax Credits from the State of Kansas to aid in soliciting lead gifts from donors in our community. A Letter of Support from the City would benefit our case to the State and provide our application with credibility and support in an extremely competitive process.

Please see the attached documents for more information about the project, the need, and the narrative application for the Community Tax Credits program.

We would appreciate the City Commission's support of our application greatly. The Lawrence Humane Society provides much needed services to the community, and this project will enable us to provide better quality services to the people and pets in our community.

Thank you,

Kate Meghji, Executive Director

Katy Ibsen, Board Chair

12. Narrative Portion of the CSP Application.

*For each of the following sections of the application, be sure to address specifically how the project meets the need in the organization, community, or region and demonstrate that the community sees and supports the need. Responses should be provided for each section and **should be answered in the order they appear in the application.** Limit responses to two pages maximum per section of questions. As long as responses adequately address the questions, there is no minimum answer. Responses which are supported by actual terms, facts and figures will strengthen the application. Applications that clearly and concisely explain the story of the organization and need and support it with facts and figures will be stronger.*

1) Organizational Introduction

Provide a description of your organization. What is the primary mission of the organization? How long has the organization provided service? Where is the organization based?

Mission: The Lawrence Humane Society nurtures the human-animal bond by providing shelter, care and advocacy for homeless and abused animals, as well as resources for the people and pets in our community.

The first humane group began in Lawrence, Kansas in the 1890s, and was affiliated with the American Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). This group's focus was the humane treatment of working animals in addition to pets. The Lawrence Humane Society (LHS) was chartered in 1951, and four acres of land were purchased at our current site on East 19th Street. In 1958, LHS Charter members, donated the funds to build the first shelter. An addition to the shelter was built in 1979, to accommodate the growing number of homeless animals in the community. LHS began offering a spay/neuter voucher program with area veterinarians, and also started providing 24-hour emergency animal rescue service to injured or ill stray animals in Douglas County, which continues to this day.

In 1995, LHS completed a moderate capital campaign and built the current 11,700 square foot facility, located in east Lawrence. In our recent history, we have served upwards of 3,500 homeless animals annually, received thousands of animals from State investigations and seizures, and have provided critical resources and care to the people and pets in our community, including Lawrence, Douglas County, and many other surrounding areas. Since 2008, we have provided shelter to more than 40,000 animals in need, reunited more than 5,000 lost pets with their owners, and found loving forever homes for more than 20,000 homeless pets.

The Lawrence Humane Society is the only animal shelter in Douglas County, and provides the service of housing all of the stray, lost, and unwanted animals in the City and County. Over two thirds of our annual intakes are the City and County stray animals.

2) Need to be Addressed

Concisely describe the need to be addressed and the potential for improvement. Describe with data the measurable terms of the need. Who is the audience that will directly benefit from this need being addressed? Why has this need not been addressed or not been addressed fully? What part of the need will remain unmet without the project?

The current facility is twenty years old and presents significant health and animal flow challenges due to its age and design. The facility was not designed with animal health and disease prevention

as the primary focus; rather it was designed to be built as inexpensively as possible. Now, major mechanical systems require major repair or replacement. Rather than spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on these short-term fixes, the LHS leadership hired a nationally renowned animal facility engineer to evaluate the building. The result was a comprehensive report detailing the facility's inadequacies and recommends a full renovation.

The facility, constructed in 1995 and slightly renovated in 2007, does not meet current industry standards for the proper care and disease management of animals housed in a shelter. The animal housing units are significantly smaller than industry best practices, and cannot be sanitized completely. There is no medical clinic in which to perform exams or provide treatment, other than the surgery suite. Furthermore, there are no means to fully isolate ill or contagious animals, particularly those with ringworm, a highly contagious fungus/pathology common in Kansas. The animal housing rooms are improperly sized and do not have sufficient air flow and filtration. There is almost no natural lighting available to the animals in the shelter, and with the feline rooms being adjacent to the main canine rooms, there is a lack of noise control or stress prevention for the animals. The only room that provides sufficient space to perform behavior evaluations is also the only room in which there is sufficient space to store animal food, which impacts the results of evaluations. There are no indoor rooms or spaces in which potential adopters can spend time getting acquainted with shelter dogs. Staff members share 4 small and crowded offices, and there is no meeting space for staff or volunteer training.

Quantifiable measurements of the impact of an aged, poorly-designed facility include the number of animals who get sick while in the shelter, the average number of days that sick animals are treated or isolated for illness, the average cost to treat preventable illness in the shelter, and of course, the number of animals euthanized for illnesses contracted while in the shelter. Conservative estimates of the cost savings possible by reducing the average numbers of days that animals require medical treatment for disease contracted in the shelter is over \$33,000 annually.

The renovation and addition to the shelter will include medical and surgery spaces to allow for fast diagnosis of illness, true isolation and quarantine spaces and will prevent the spread of disease within the shelter, reduce medical expenses, and increase the number of animals who leave the shelter alive and healthy.

3) History of Need

Concisely and clearly describe how the need emerged. Explain what has occurred in the organization, community, or region to elevate this need so that it must be addressed. How was this need discovered? Why is it important to address it at this moment?

Animal overpopulation and homelessness are nation-wide issues. Every community in the United States has stray, lost, and unwanted pets, and shelters like LHS exist to provide a safety net for those animals, as well as reduce the number of nuisance and public health concerns related to animals running at large.

To responsibly manage large numbers of animals in a facility requires proper kennels and caging units, adequate HVAC and plumbing systems, and the ability to isolate animals with contagious infections. The current facility was not designed with any of these aspects, and furthermore, the deterioration of the building has negatively impacted operational efficiency as well.

It is critical to address this need at this time. Without the renovation, costly mechanical repairs and replacements will be necessary to simply maintain current operations. These repairs will not address the HVAC, air flow, and inability to isolate for disease, and are not considered to be cost-effective use of donor and community funds.

4) Project Summary and Selection of Project

Summarize the project. Describe how the project addresses the need. Discuss what steps were taken to examine other alternatives to the project. What other projects have been considered? Explain what steps were taken to engage the community around recognizing the need and selecting this project. How was the project selected? Why is this project the current priority?

The project will entail a full remodel and renovation, plus a small addition to create a full medical clinic. The project will not increase shelter capacity; rather it will reallocate current space available into smaller spaces with appropriately-sized cages and kennels, and individual plumbing and HVAC systems. This project will create a logical flow of animals through the facility, including stray holding, quarantine, isolation, and adoption spaces for both dogs and cats as well as a central medical clinic for examinations, treatments, and surgeries. There will be additional spaces created for indoor staff, volunteer and animal training, administrative offices, and grooming.

The project plan was developed by Scott Learned Design, an animal facility engineer, in conjunction with a local architect, LHS medical director, Dr. Jennifer Stone, and the LHS executive staff and Board representatives. It encompasses the projected capacity and level of care needed to match the anticipated animal intakes to the LHS facility for many years to come.

Alternatives this project are replacing the current HVAC systems in the building, undergoing mold removal, and other costly major repairs and replacements. This alternative is not suitable and will not address the disease management and sanitary needs of managing a large population of animals. In addition, this alternative was recommended against by multiple animal facility architects and engineers consulted.

Local support of LHS has never been higher. The services and programs that are offered are unique to the community, and support for this project has been incredibly well-received. Members of the community have indicated that the need for this project is clearly demonstrated, that it is in the community's best interest to have a well-functioning animal shelter, and that there is and will be financial support to complete this project.

This project is LHS's highest priority at this time. Until there is an efficiently functioning facility, the staff and volunteers are limited in their abilities to care for the animals at the level required. The LHS is also unable to take on new initiatives and programs to reduce pet overpopulation and homelessness as all available resources are spent on maintaining a failing facility.

5) Project Area and Target Community/Beneficiaries

Describe the area where the project will take place. (Include a legible map of the project area. Outline the project location if possible. For redevelopment and new construction projects, include a front elevation or overhead layout of the project if possible.) Discuss the availability of similar resources in the area. Discuss how the location of the project will facilitate providing service to the target population.

The current LHS facility is located on 4 acres located at 1805 East 19th Street in Lawrence, KS. The project will renovate the current approximately 16,000 square foot building, adding on at the northeast side of the building, increasing the total square footage to just over 19,000.

There are no other animal shelters in the area. We serve the City of Lawrence, Douglas County, and areas outside of the county where there are no shelters located or where other shelters turn animals away. LHS is an open-admission shelter that will not turn animals away, regardless of adoptability. This project will allow LHS to provide a high-quality level of care to the unwanted animals who require shelter, to the members of our community who seek resources and assistance in dealing with pet-related issues, and the municipalities who need stray animals housed.

Without this project, LHS will not be able to proactively address the issues causing animal overpopulation and homelessness in the community, through education, outreach, and by providing resources to pet owners, and will therefore continue to spend all available time and resources on the animals in the shelter, rather than preventing them from requiring shelter in the first place.

Attached: Floorplan

6) Timing of the Project

Demonstrate why the timing of this project is good. Specifically, why is this a good moment to attempt the project? Is there significant awareness of the need at this moment, strong local support, committed outside support for the project or few other committed projects? Why is now a fitting time? Would putting off the project be better at this moment? Discuss the length of time that service could be offered if project is funded.

Due to aged and failing mechanical systems, the timing of this project is imperative. In addition, LHS leadership has completed a feasibility study to determine the receptivity of this project in the local community, which resulted in a positive report that the community is supportive of the project, understands the need, and is ready to contribute financially to make it happen. There are few other local capital projects at this time, and they are not likely to complete with this project for the same donors.

If this project is funded, it could be completed within about 18 months, and will not require significant repair or renovation for many years.

7) Goals for the Project

Concisely and specifically describe the measurable goals/objectives of the project. Number the primary goals/objectives for the project. For each of them address the timeframe for evaluating them and how the success of that goal will be evaluated.

1. Reduce transmission of infectious disease within the shelter environment.

- In 2014, there were 329 cats treated for upper respiratory infection, with an average of 14 days of isolation and treatment for each cat. The cost for treatment for these cats can be quantified at \$18/day, with an annual cost of nearly \$83,000.

- By creating isolation spaces and better sound control to reduce stress, the number of cats infected will reduce by at least 20%, if not significantly higher (based on very moderate predictions and results seen in other shelters), and the average numbers of days of treatment will also be reduced to 9 (based on industry standards). Total reduction in annual costs: \$40,000.

- Timeframe for evaluation: immediate. Tracking of animals diagnosed with URI happens on a continual basis, as well as days in isolation, cost of medications and care.

2. Reduce animal overpopulation and homelessness in the community.

- By providing educational opportunities, pet training classes, and youth programs utilizing the new multipurpose room included in the expansion of the shelter, the LHS will, for the first time, have to means to offer support and resources to pet owners in the community to prevent abandonment, unplanned litters of puppies and kittens, and the surrender of owned animals due to housing, behavior and financial reasons. On average, the LHS intakes approximately 3500 animals annually.

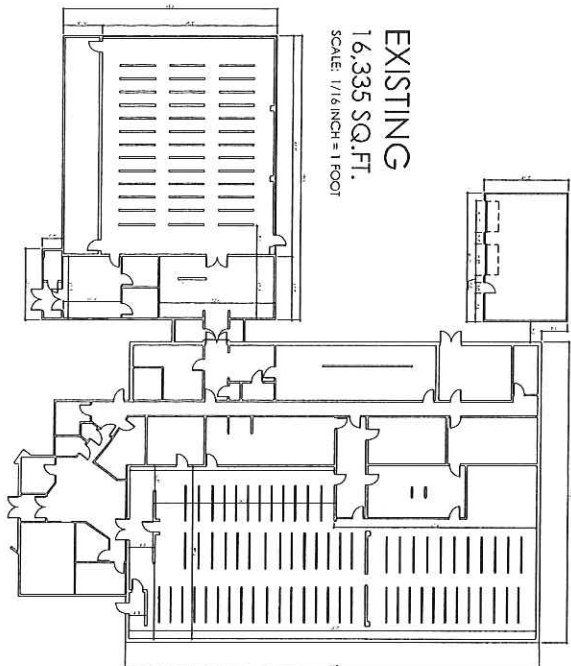
-Within 5 years of completing the renovation, the LHS anticipates:

- A reduction in owner-surrendered pets from citizens of Lawrence and Douglas County of at least 10%.

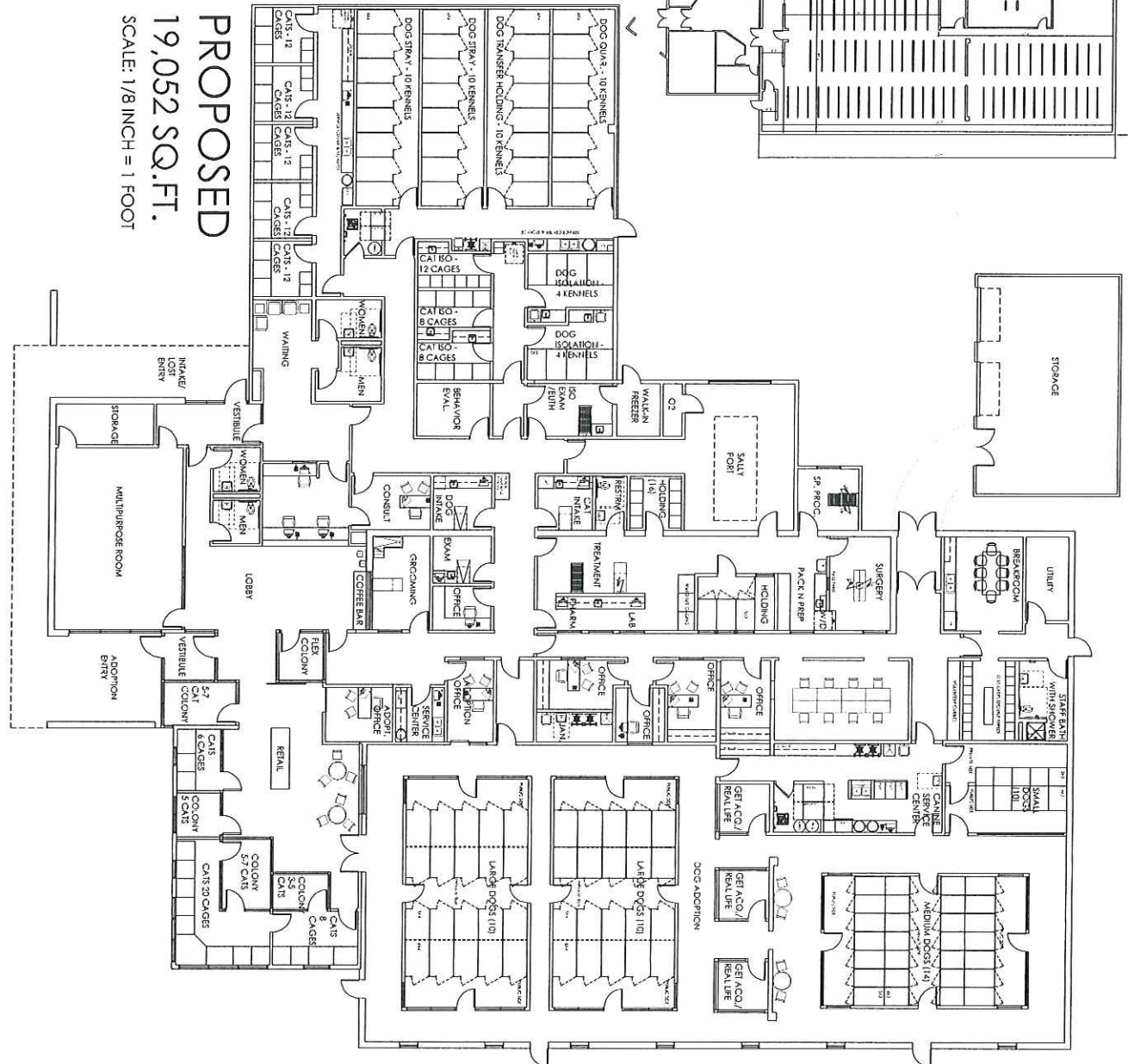
-Spay/neuter initiatives and education targeted towards high-need neighborhoods and zip codes aims to stabilize, if not reduce, the intake of stray pets.

-With significant decreases in many operational areas with the renovation and expansion, the LHS will be able to reallocate resources towards increasing the number of lost pets reunited with their owners, particularly cats, will increase these reunions by at least 10% from an average of 500 per year (less than 100 cats).

-Overall, LHS will see the overall Live Release (Save) rate increase to an average of 90%, eliminating the euthanasia of healthy, friendly and treatable homeless and unwanted pets in our community.



EXISTING
 16,335 SQ.FT.
 SCALE: 1/8 INCH = 1 FOOT



PROPOSED
 19,052 SQ.FT.
 SCALE: 1/8 INCH = 1 FOOT

LAWRENCE HUMANE SOCIETY

CONCEPT RENOVATION & EXPANSION PLAN

04-01-2015

