



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**  
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**Agenda Item Number:** 4

**Agenda Date:** April 16, 2024

**In Control:** Public Safety Committee

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**DEPARTMENT:** Animal Care Services

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Shannon Sims

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Animal Care Services (ACS) Strategic Plan Year One Initiatives

**SUMMARY:**

A briefing on the Animal Care Services (ACS) Strategic Plan initiatives included in the FY 2024 Budget focused on areas such as public safety, humane pet care, and placement of ACS pets.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In the Fall of 2021, ACS recognized the need for a comprehensive vision for the future and proposed the creation of a new strategic plan. This new plan was presented to City Council in March 2023 and reflected feedback from the public, ACS Advisory Board, ACS staff, and best practice research. The five focus areas of the plan are:

- Support a safe community for people in their neighborhoods
- Protect the safety and humane treatment of pets
- Support the placement of pets for life

- Foster positive connections with our community
- Champion a healthy and thriving workforce

Following the presentation of the plan, City Council approved a mid-year budget adjustment of \$848,000 to begin implementing key elements of the plan. As a result of the FY 2024 Trial Budget and the community survey, support for ACS was identified as one of the top budgetary priorities. The FY 2024 Adopted Budget includes resources to continue implementation of year one of the five-year ACS Strategic Plan by increasing the Department's total budget to \$28.5 million, a 33% increase from the FY 2023 Adopted Budget. This increase of \$7.1 million includes 29 new positions and other resources to improve public safety, enhance the quality of life for San Antonio residents, and improve customer service.

**Community Safety:** As one of the primary focus areas of both City Council and the community, the FY 2024 Adopted Budget enhances responses to bite cases, increases compliance of dangerous dog cases, and responds to a larger number of critical calls.

**Quality of Life:** Funding in the FY 2024 Adopted Budget was allocated with the goal of improving the quality of life in San Antonio by increasing spay/neuter surgeries, rescues, and adoptions.

**ISSUE:**

This presentation to the Public Safety Committee will provide an update on the Year One initiatives of the ACS Strategic Plan.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

For briefing purposes only.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

For briefing purposes only.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

For briefing purposes only.