

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: June 16, 2009

Date Submitted: June 1, 2009

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Major Larry Massa, Wakulla County Sheriff's Department
Ivanhoe Carroll, Wakulla County Animal Control

Subject: Request Board Consideration and Approval to Appoint a Auxiliary Animal Control Officer

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item requests Board consideration and approval to appoint Robert Crain as a member of the Auxiliary Unit of Wakulla County Animal Control.

Background:

Robert Crain has volunteered at least three days of every week for the last 18 months at Animal Control. Mr. Crain's background has been screened through the Human Resource Department of the WCSO. In light of the budget cuts in July of 2007, Mr. Crain decided that he would attend the Animal Control Officer 40 hour course and obtain his ACO Certificate (Attachment #1). Next he completed a course on Chemical Capture (Attachment #2). All of the expenses for travel, tuition, lodging, etc. were borne solely by Mr. Crain. He is scheduled to attend a Euthanasia class in June in Jacksonville to become certified in that field.

An Animal Control Officer is defined in Article 1 of the Animal Control Ordinance 08-10 as:
Any person employed or appointed by Wakulla County who is authorized to investigate, on public or private property, violations relating to animal control and/or cruelty, according to F. S. Statute 828.27, violations of the provisions and the Animal Control Ordinance of Wakulla County, Florida.

Analysis:

Animal Control responds to animal complaints 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. With only three employees (a director and two Animal Control Officers), they handled over 2,800 calls for service in fiscal year 2008/2009.

The Division of Animal Control's 2007/2008 budget was cut in July of 2009 by \$40,000 plus the loss of a vacant Animal Control Officer position. This has created a severe shortage of manpower to service the animals and citizens of the County. Having an auxiliary officer to fill-in when needed would be a great benefit.

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As a member of the Auxiliary, Mr. Crain would be able to respond to any calls, just as an Animal Control Officer would respond. It would be a great help to the staff of Animal Control to have another officer to call on when one of the officers is sick, goes on leave or in the event of an emergency.

Options:

1. Appoint Robert Crain as an Auxiliary Animal Control Officer.
2. Do not appoint Robert Crain as an Auxiliary Animal Control Officer.
3. Board direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1

Attachment(s):

1. ACO Certificate
2. Chemical Capture Certificate