

Cost Comparison – Animal Resources Enforcement: County Operations vs. Sheriff's Proposed Service Model

Purpose:

This memo provides a summary comparison of current County costs to provide Animal Resources enforcement services versus the \$1 million increase proposed by the Alachua County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) to assume these responsibilities.

Background:

Alachua County Animal Resources currently oversees enforcement activities related to animal control, cruelty investigations, bite cases, dangerous dogs, and enforcement of Chapter 72 of the County Code. The County's current structure includes certified Animal Enforcement Officers with specialized training and a dedicated dispatch and reporting structure.

In recent discussions, the Sheriff's Office proposed assuming these responsibilities, requesting an additional \$1 million in FY26 funding to incorporate these duties under their law enforcement umbrella.

Cost Comparison Overview:

Category	Current County Animal Resources	Sheriff's Proposal
Annual Personnel Cost	\$1,104,568	\$1,168,076 proposed Enforcement Cost only not Dispatch
Vehicles & Equipment	Transfer of Existing County Vehicles	Review of existing County vehicles with upgrades to Law Enforcement package and new fleet acquisition
Training & Certifications	Current Enforcement State Training	Law enforcement-based
Dispatch / Call Management	County Animal Dispatch	Through ACSO Dispatch (Assumes acquisition of 2 County staff into Combined Communication)
FY26 Annual Operating Total	\$1,189,047 proposed	\$ 2,050,599 proposed

Key Considerations:

- The County's existing program operates, with costs reflecting direct services, specialized handling, and limited law enforcement coordination needs. Call Out Standby and Overtime costs vary and are absorbed by vacancies.
- Transitioning to ACSO would require a new administrative and operational structure, potentially duplicating certain support functions (e.g., dispatch, call tracking, shelter coordination).
- The County model includes community outreach, targeted field education, and coordination with the shelter to reduce intake and improve outcomes—services not explicitly covered in the Sheriff's proposal.
- ACSO's proposed model may offer enhanced legal authority but lacks defined integration with shelter and veterinary services, potentially impacting animal welfare and case resolution timeliness.