



## Agenda Item Summary

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**File #: 26-00107**

**Agenda Date: 1/27/2026**

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**Agenda Item Name:**

**Animal Enforcement Update**

**Presenter:**

Gina Peebles – Assistant County Manager – Chief of Staff and Interim Animal Resources Director  
Joshua Crews – Undersheriff – Alachua County Sheriff's Office

**Description:**

Animal Enforcement Update

**Recommended Action:**

- (1) Authorize the Chair to Sign the attached Memorandum of Understanding
- (2) Authorize the "Request to Advertise" for the required Public Hearing to Amend CH. 72 of the Alachua County Code
- (3) Authorize the corresponding budget amendment(s) to transfer funding to the Alachua County Sheriff's Office
- (4) Direct staff to provide quarterly updates to the Board over the next year

**Prior Board Motions:**

Aug. 5, 2025 - Commissioner Cornell moved to direct staff to move forward with sheriff proposal and work on bringing back a discussion to the Board on the issues discussed regarding how things would operate.

**Fiscal Note:**

This action's year one estimated cost is \$671,418 (Please see attached for a detailed breakdown)

This includes:

- \$395,119 in Personal Services for 4 FTEs (Recurring)
- \$132,270 in Operating expenditures (Recurring and Non-Recurring)
- \$144,029 in Capital (Non-recurring)

Animal Resources will transfer, to the Alachua County Sheriff's budget, the prorated salary and benefit costs for FY26 and will utilize \$311,191 from reserves to cover program-related expenses.

**Strategic Guide:**

Public Safety

**Background:**

At the Aug. 5, 2025 Budget meeting, the Board discussed transferring animal enforcement responsibilities to the Sheriff's Office.

Since, staff have been working with the Sheriff's Office to develop a contract transferring certain animal enforcement responsibilities. Through these discussions, it was determined that a bifurcated enforcement model would provide the most effective and efficient approach. Under this model, the Sheriff's Office would assume responsibility for criminal animal enforcement, including serving as the initial point of contact for animal bites and dog fighting cases, while the County would retain responsibility for civil animal enforcement, including serving as the initial point of contact for sick wildlife and animal abuse or neglect matters.

The attached Memorandum of Understanding provides for the transfer of three existing Investigator positions, all of whom have successfully passed the Sheriff's Office pre-employment screenings, and one vacant Supervisor position, along with all associated equipment. It further requires the parties to jointly develop an Operations Manual that will clearly delineate procedures and responsibilities between Animal Control Operations remaining under County authority and the Animal Services Bureau operating under the Sheriff's authority. Approval authority for the development of the Operations Manual, as well as any subsequent revisions, is vested in the Sheriff and the County Manager, or their respective designees.

This hybrid approach would ultimately strengthen public trust while advancing the County's animal welfare goals.