

Blount County Animal Center Memorandum

Date: 27 October 2022
To: Budget Committee
From: Charles Rafford – Director BCAC
Subject: Budget Amendment – Full Time Personnel

I am submitting a Budget Amendment to increase funding for an additional Full Time employee to work primarily in the Cattery to address a need for increased manpower.

The past couple of years has seen decreasing numbers of volunteers due to Covid concerns and the cessation of inmate workers from the County Jail. In addition, the Center has experienced an increase in the population of cats brought to the center as strays, surrendered by their owners, or trapped by Animal Control Officers in the course of their duties. On any given day we have a population of 90-110 cats and kittens, with many instances of kittens brought to us without their mother and requiring bottle feeding. This increased population has put a tremendous strain on the Cattery personnel and is directly reflected in an increase in the use of overtime funds to humanely care for these animals.

I am requesting this additional full time position be funded by County Fund Balance for the remainder of this FY and will continue as a future need as an expansion of the cattery and other areas is being planned, and fund raising efforts are currently underway, by The Friends of the Blount County Animal Center, dba Smoky Mountain Animal Care Foundation. The fundraising goal for this comprehensive expansion of the Center is approximately 1 million dollars of which approximately \$750,000.00 has been raised to date. Construction is expected to begin in the Spring of 2023. This expansion will add considerable new floor space and increase the number of animals we can humanely house, but will also increase the amount of work my staff has to do 365 days a year.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully
C. Rafford
Director BCAC