



Report to Council

Department: Office of the CAO
Division: Legal and Legislative Services
Date: April 7, 2025
Prepared by: Shelley Brown, Deputy Clerk
Report Number: Legal and Legislative Services-2025-03
Subject: Increase in Funds for Spay and Neuter Voucher Program
Number of Pages: 4

Recommendation(s)

That Legal and Legislative Services Report 2025-03 entitled Reallocation of Funds for Spay and Neuter Voucher Program prepared by Shelley Brown, Deputy Clerk dated April 7, 2025 be received;

That Council approve an additional 50 vouchers for feral cats and 2 vouchers for dogs and cats of low-income families be approved with the expense totalling \$10,400 being funded from the Animal Control Reserve.

Purpose

Council approval is required for expenses that fall outside of the approval budget and the increase in the number of vouchers and monetary value of Spay and Neuter Vouchers.

Background and Discussion

Spay and Neuter Voucher Program

Council first approved the spay and neuter voucher program for feral cats and owned dogs and cats of low-income families in 2013. The program has existed since that time with minor changes. Initially there were 200 vouchers for feral cats and 50 for owned dogs and cats of low-income families however after a few years of the program, the number of vouchers changed to 175 and 10 respectively.

In 2024 Council approved amendments to the program to decrease the number of vouchers available from 175 to 64 for feral cats and 10 to 5 for owned dogs and cats of low-income families. At that time, Administration committed to monitoring the program and recommend changes as needed.

These amendments have been very well received by residents. As of March 17, 2025, all of the 64 vouchers have been issued.

Tables 1 and 2 outline the usage of the program since 2019.

Table 1: Feral Cats

Feral Cats	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Vouchers Available	157*	175	175	175	175	175
Vouchers Issued	138	125	112	57	118	175
Vouchers Redeemed	71	57	60	39	77	71

Table 2: Owned Dogs and Cats of Low-Income Families

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Vouchers Available	6**	10	10	10	10	10
Vouchers Issued	2	0	3	2	2	4
Vouchers Redeemed	0	0	0	1	1	4

*93 valued at \$75 and 64 valued at \$200

**1 valued at \$75 and 5 valued at \$200

As indicated in Tables 1 & 2, approximately 51% of the vouchers issued in 2024 were redeemed. The remaining 49% of the vouchers are issued and outstanding and should be redeemed in the upcoming months. This trend remained consistent after the program was revised in late 2024. It is difficult to gauge if this trend will continue in 2025, however it is expected that the number redeemed will increase.

Based on these factors, it is recommended that an additional 50 vouchers for feral cats and 2 vouchers for dogs and cats of low-income families be approved with the expense totalling \$10,400 being funded from the Animal Control Reserve. Administration will continue to monitor and evaluate the data and recommend further changes if needed.

Financial Impact

The increased expense to the program of \$10,400 to be funded by the Animal Control Reserve which has sufficient balance.

Consultations

Joe Malandrucolo, Director, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk

Kate Giurissevich, Director, Corporate Services

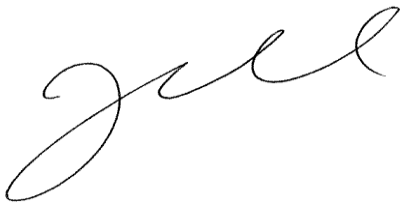
Link to Strategic Priorities

- Embrace asset management best practices to build, maintain, and continuously improve our municipally owned infrastructure.
- Leverage our Town's competitive advantages to promote jobs and economic investment.
- Take care of our natural environment and strengthen the sense of belonging to everyone who makes Essex "home".
- Deliver friendly customer service in an efficient, effective, and transparent manner while providing an exceptional working environment for our employees.
- Build corporate-level and community-level climate resilience through community engagement and partnership and corporate objectives.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Increase in Funds for Spay and Neuter Vouchers - Legal and Legislative Services-2025-03.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Mar 27, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Joseph Malandrucolo, Director, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk - Mar 27, 2025 - 2:01 PM



Kate Giurissevich, Director, Corporate Services - Mar 27, 2025 - 2:06 PM



Doug Sweet, Chief Administrative Officer - Mar 27, 2025 - 2:07 PM