



CITY COUNCIL REPORT

March 31, 2008

TO: Phillip L. Nelson, City Manager
FROM: Charles T. Craft, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Skunk Removal Services

Background:

- Prior to 1998, the control and removal of skunks was a task assigned to the police department's Animal Control Officers.
- In 1998, the department became aware of the Wildlife Conversation Act, which dictated the manner skunks could be disposed of or relocated.
- Compliance with the Act was cost prohibitive.
- Therefore, in November of 1998, City Council approved a request from the police department to enter into a contract with private vendor for the skunk removal services.
- Most recently, the department has budgeted \$22,500, annually for the service.
- A&D Animal Control holds the contract and has provided good service.
- The current contract expires on May 3, 2008.
- Research conducted by Lieutenant Chuck Pappas indicates a decreasing number of requests for the service over the last three years.
- Our records indicate that in 2007, 55 traps were set and 29 skunks captured and removed.
- A survey of neighboring communities revealed that most do not trap skunks, but refer residents to private animal control services.
- Given the relatively low number of requests for skunk removal services and the even smaller number of skunks actually trapped, the police department is not renewing the contract with A&D Animal Control.
- Citizens requesting trapping and removal of skunks will be advised to directly contact a private animal control service.
- Animal control personnel will continue to respond to incidents where a skunk has gained access to a dwelling or is sick/injured and/or posing a risk to public safety.

Financial Considerations:

- The departments operating budget will be reduced by \$22,500.

Legal Considerations:

- None

Policy Considerations:

- City Council Goal II: Minimize the cost and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of City government.