

**BOARD OF
ANIMAL SERVICES
COMMISSIONERS**

ALISON McBETH-FEATHERSTONE
PRESIDENT

OLIVIA E. GARCIA
VICE PRESIDENT

COMMISSIONERS

ALEXANDER KASENDORF

THERESA SARDISCO

YVETTE SMITH

City of Los Angeles

CALIFORNIA



**KAREN BASS
MAYOR**

**DEPARTMENT OF
ANIMAL SERVICES**

221 N. Figueroa Street
6TH Floor, Suite #600
Los Angeles, CA 90012

(888) 452-7381
FAX (213) 482-9511

GABRIELLE AMSTER
GENERAL MANAGER

CURTIS R. WATTS
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Administration

ANNETTE G. RAMIREZ
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Lifesaving

DR. JEREMY PRUPAS
CHIEF VETERINARIAN

June 24, 2026

Council File No.: 25-1221
Council Districts: All
Contact person and phone:
Gabrielle Amster (213) 482-9558

The Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council
Arts, Parks, Libraries and Community Enrichment Committee
c/o Office of the City Clerk
City Hall Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Armando Bencomo, Legislative Assistant

**SUBJECT: CF NO. 25-1221 - DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES REPORT ON THE COSTS
NEEDED TO INVEST IN LARGE TRANSPORT VEHICLES AND PERSONNEL TO EXPAND THE
DEPARTMENT'S ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN MORE EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY**

Recommendation for Council Action:

NOTE AND FILE this report as this report is for informational purposes only.

SUMMARY

The Department of Animal Services (Department), with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), was instructed to report to Council on the costs needed to invest in large transport vehicles and personnel, including potential funding sources, to expand the Department's ability to host and participate in more Pet Fair events throughout the City of Los Angeles, including potential participation in community resource fairs, health fairs, and other City-sponsored events.

DISCUSSION

The inclusion of a mobile pet adoption vehicle to Department operations would expand the Department's ability to conduct off-site adoption and outreach events across the City of Los Angeles, vastly expanding current Department reach and community exposure. With relatively low staffing requirements and the ability to transport up to 12 animals, the use of such vehicles represents a

"Creating a Humane LA"

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Visit our website at www.LAAnimalServices.com

SUBJECT: CF NO. 25-1221 - DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES REPORT ON THE COSTS NEEDED TO INVEST IN LARGE TRANSPORT VEHICLES AND PERSONNEL TO EXPAND THE DEPARTMENT'S ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN MORE EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY

scalable investment in increasing adoption rates and community engagement. At present, the Department does not have an available funding source nor sufficient funds to purchase a vehicle as described.

Mobile Pet Adoption Vehicle – Proposed Option

With assistance from representatives from Councilmember Padilla’s office, the Department identified a couple of options that could potentially serve the purpose for operating mobile pet adoption vehicles. Upon review of the specifications for those options, the Department determined that a custom built, RV-style animal transport vehicle designed with the safety of the animals in mind is the preferred model. The vehicle would be similar to one customized for use by Pedro Pet Pals in San Pedro (photos attached). Based on staff observations and available specifications, the vehicle is well-suited for mobile pet adoption and community engagement events, does not require a tow vehicle and can be driven by staff with valid Class C commercial driver’s licenses.

Vehicle Specifications and Features

- **Chassis:** Ford E-450
- **Length:** 28 feet
- **Structure:** 18-foot custom-built animal shelter body with 36-inch over-cab attic

Key Features:

- Capacity for approximately six large kennels. Configurable to up to 12 spaces for small dogs or cats
- Dedicated meet-and-greet room for potential adopters and animals
- Interior bench seating with storage and removable table for adoption processing
- Open rear layout to facilitate animal interaction
- Temperature control system with two A/C units and roof-mounted fans
- Large display windows to increase visibility and adoption appeal
- Passenger-side awning for shaded outdoor engagement
- Power Options:
 - Option 1: Solar + lithium battery system (up to 8+ hours runtime, no generator)
 - Option 2: Traditional gas-powered generator system
- Exterior and interior electrical outlets for operational needs
- Secure storage compartments and accessible electrical panels

Operational Use

The mobile adoption vehicle would primarily support:

- Pet adoption fairs
- Community events
- Health and wellness fairs
- Other City-sponsored outreach events

The Department currently participates in a high volume of such events. The vehicle would likely be utilized regularly. Our Events Team, led by a District Supervisor and the Volunteer Coordinator would coordinate scheduling and utilization of the vehicle.

SUBJECT: CF NO. 25-1221 - DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES REPORT ON THE COSTS NEEDED TO INVEST IN LARGE TRANSPORT VEHICLES AND PERSONNEL TO EXPAND THE DEPARTMENT'S ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN MORE EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY

Staffing Requirements

- Staffing Requirement: The vehicle can be operated and used by as few as one staff member or for events where multiple staff members and volunteers participate.
- Solely operated by authorized Department staff
- The Department would coordinate with the General Services Department (GSD) for regular maintenance and support.

Cost Estimates

Per the Department's research, two primary configurations are available:

- High-End (Solar/Battery): The estimated cost for this option is approximately \$240,000
- Lower-Cost (Generator-Based): The traditional gas-powered generator model is estimated to cost approximately \$210,000

While the solar-powered option provides sustainability benefits and quieter operation, the generator-based system is considered more reliable.

The Department estimates that it will cost approximately \$5,500 to custom wrap the vehicle once fully configured.

Warranty and Maintenance

- **Chassis Warranty (Ford Motor Company):**
 - 3 years / 30,000 miles (limited)
 - 5 years / 60,000 miles (powertrain)
- **Conversion/Fabrication Warranty:**
 - Potential manufacturer warranty from the selected builder doing the customizations
- **Estimated Annual Vehicle Maintenance Costs:**
 - Estimated maintenance costs of over \$3,000 (chassis-related costs only)
 - There may be other conversion/customization-related maintenance or repair costs
- **Other potential costs may include:**
 - Ongoing maintenance
 - Potential repair costs outside beyond warranty coverage
 - Fuel or energy system costs depending on selected configuration

CONCLUSION

If a viable funding source and sufficient financial support can be secured, adding a mobile pet adoption vehicle to the Department's operations would significantly enhance its capacity to host off-site adoption and outreach events throughout the City of Los Angeles. This expansion would greatly increase the Department's visibility and engagement with the community. Requiring minimal staffing and capable of transporting up to 12 animals, such a vehicle offers a cost-effective and scalable solution for boosting adoption rates and strengthening community connections.

The Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO) reviewed the Animal Services Department's response to the motion regarding the purchase of a Mobile Pet Adoption Vehicle. The Department reported that it initially worked with a previous City vendor to obtain a quote for the estimated cost of the vehicle with the required specifications sufficient to perform the work. The vehicle purchase cost

SUBJECT: CF NO. 25-1221 - DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES REPORT ON THE COSTS NEEDED TO INVEST IN LARGE TRANSPORT VEHICLES AND PERSONNEL TO EXPAND THE DEPARTMENT'S ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN MORE EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY

was estimated at approximately \$240,000 for an electric vehicle or \$210,000 for a gasoline-powered version. If the Council elects to pursue the acquisition of a vehicle for this purpose, it is recommended that the Department incorporate the purchase into its Fiscal Year (FY) 2027-28 budget submission and work with the Department of General Services – Fleet Services Division, to determine vehicle specifications and estimated costs. If approved, the appropriate funding source for this purchase would be through the Municipal Improvement Corporation of Los Angeles (MICLA) financing program, as part of the Animal Services Department's FY 2027-28 fleet vehicle replacement program.

Respectfully submitted,



Gabrielle Amster
General Manager

Attachments