Seatle City Council Select Budget Committee

Councilmember Budget Proposals| Tuesday, October 27, 2026

Department of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS)

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SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

2027 STATEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE INTENT

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FAS-001S-A

Request that FAS report on Seattle Animal Shelter needs assessment

SPONSORS

Dan Strauss, Joy Hollingsworth, Debora Juarez

CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY

This SLI requests that the Department of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS) complete a needs assessment for the Seattle Animal Shelter (SAS) to support future planning for a potential capital replacement project and associated debt service. The assessment should identify facility limitations, operational and staffing needs, and best-practice models that can inform decisions about long-term investments in shelter infrastructure and services.

Requested Report Components:

1. Facility Assessment
   - Evaluate current facility conditions, space constraints, and future capital needs.
   - Identify gaps that limit operational capacity, animal care, or community services, particularly those relevant to considering a new or replacement facility.

2. Operational, Service, and Staffing Needs
   - Review existing programs and services, including animal care, veterinary services, field operations, volunteer engagement, and community outreach.
   - Assess staffing levels and capacity relative to service demands.
   - Identify operational challenges and opportunities to strengthen service delivery, including those that could be addressed through facility modernization.

3. Benchmarking and Best Practices
   - Review approaches used by comparable municipal animal shelters, including facility models, service standards, and operational practices.
   - Highlight best practices relevant to Seattle's needs and potential future capital planning.

A written report summarizing findings, needs, and potential options for future action should be submitted to the Finance, Native Communities, and Tribal Governments Committee by June 30, 2027.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Finance, Native Communities & Tribal Governments

DUE DATE: June 30, 2027