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SEP - 8 2025

VANESSA JAMES, County Clerk
JACK COUNTY, TEXAS

BY _____ DEPUTY

Friends of the Jacksboro Animal Shelter
P.O. Box 322
Jacksboro, TX 76458
940-456-1388
A 501(c)(3) Corporation

Judge Keith Umphress
100 N. Main
Jacksboro, TX 76458

Dear Judge Umphress,

It has come to our attention that the annual allocation from the county to the Jacksboro Animal Shelter has been deleted from the budget for the fiscal year 2025/2026. This is distressing news, since the draft as of July 30th, 2025, shows a regular donation of \$30,000 over each of the past several years.

While we realize that these funds would go to the city, we felt it incumbent upon us to explain how the relationship between the Friends of the Jacksboro Animal Shelter and the city operates.

First, the Friends is an entity unto itself and is independent of the city animal shelter. As a 501(c)(3), we depend on donations, grants and our own fund-raising projects for revenue. We receive no funds from the city, which owns and maintains the shelter complex.

We have worked very hard to help provide a shelter complex the entire county can use. We collaborate with the city and animal control officer on projects to improve the shelter, as well as being open to input from the community and other entities. Our work is evident in the main building itself, for which we contributed a large part of its construction. After its dedication, we paid for the quarantine building, the dog park, which is in its final stages of completion, and a cat habitat to be finished within 6 to 8 weeks. We also provide for costs of spaying/neutering for adopted pets, occasional vet bills for injured animals and \$500 per month for animal food. As a side note, there are regular volunteers from the Friends who help the city workers care for the animals and clean the shelter. Since the new shelter was built, there are 3 major changes from previous policy: we now accept cats, county residents are allowed to bring animals in, and we are a no-kill shelter.

As you can see, our dedication to the shelter is quite extensive and it is our privilege to assist the city and county in this way. The deletion of the \$30,000 means the county would contribute nothing to the care of the animals brought in from outside the Jacksboro city limits. A recent statistic shows that 76% of the animals in the shelter came from the county. We have no desire to tell county residents they cannot use the shelter after all the efforts made to include them. Some of our most generous donors live in rural Jack County.

We hope this letter provides some insight into our work and assistance to the city. While we realize the budget has been finalized, we are asking that you please find a way to provide some county assistance. We appreciate your patience and understanding and thank you for any help you can give.

Sincerely,
Friends of the Jacksboro Animal Shelter