



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Control: 26001447

MEETING DATE: 08/25/2026
LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION: Board of Supervisors
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S): District 2
SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Probation
DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S): Daniel Hernandez, 714-645-7001
Jessica Johnson, 714-645-7004

SUBJECT: Contract with Cell Dogs, Inc. for Rehabilitation Services

CEO CONCUR

Concur

COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW

Approve agreement to form

CLERK OF THE BOARD

DISCUSSION

3 Votes Board Majority

Budgeted: Yes

Current Year Cost: \$175,369

Annual Cost:

FY 2078-28 \$233,825

FY 2028-29 \$233,825

FY 2029-30 \$58,456

Staffing Impact: No

Current Fiscal Year

Revenue: N/A

Levine Act Review

Completed? Yes

Prior Board Action: N/A

Funding Source: GF: 41%, State: 59%
(DJJ Realignment JJRBG)

Sole Source: Yes

**County Audit in Last 3
years:** No

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Authorize the County Procurement Officer or Deputized designee to execute a sole source contract with Cell Dogs, Inc. for the provision of youth rehabilitation services, effective October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2029, in an amount not to exceed \$701,475, renewable for two additional one-year terms.

SUMMARY:

Approval of the Contract with Cell Dogs, Inc. will assist youth with rehabilitation by developing their handling and training skills while working with dogs provided by the program, focusing on positive reinforcement, communication skills, and accountability while providing youth continued college coursework in animal care, wellness and health; ultimately certifying the dogs as adoptable.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Senate Bill (SB) 823 (2020), also known as the “Juvenile Justice Realignment Bill” was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 30, 2020. This legislation mandated the phased closure of

California's Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and transferred to counties responsibility over custody, treatment, and supervision of youth adjudicated for serious and/or violent offenses under Welfare and Institutions Code § (WIC) 707(b).

On February 25, 2021, the Orange County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (OCJJCC) approved changes to its bylaws to include the creation of the OCJJCC's SB 823 Subcommittee, which was tasked with drafting a plan to address the needs of youth within the target population. On May 27, 2022, the OCJJCC approved the Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan (Plan) created by the SB 823 Subcommittee to provide the appropriate rehabilitative and supervision services for high-needs youth. The plan was reviewed, updated, and approved by the OCJJCC's SB 823 Subcommittee on March 17, 2026. The proposed contract meets the objectives of this plan.

Cell Dogs, Inc. (Cell Dogs) is a nonprofit organization that provides youth rehabilitation through dog training services. Cell Dogs previously provided their services to the Orange County Probation Department (Probation) under a non-financial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) since 2010, which relied on volunteers and financial donations. The Cell Dogs Rehabilitation Program (Program) has proved to have a positive impact with the youth under Probation's supervision and now, due to a decrease in donations and volunteer services, Cell Dogs can no longer provide its services at no cost under a non-financial MOU. To ensure the longevity of the program, Probation entered into negotiations with Cell Dogs to establish a financial contract.

Services under the proposed paid contract will be conducted at the following location(s):

Juvenile Hall (JH)	331 The City Drive Orange, CA 92868
Youth Guidance Center (YGC)	3030 N. Hesperian Way Santa Ana, CA 92706

Program details

The contract includes the following programs that Cell Dogs will provide:

1. Foster Program
 - a. This program will be conducted at the YGC
2. Training concepts and practical dog training
 - a. This program will be conducted at JH
3. Behavior Modification, Attitude Adjustment, Re-entry Skills and Knowledge (BARK)
 - a. This program will be conducted at both YGC & JH

Foster Program

The Foster Program consists of a six-week training course that follows the Santiago Community College coursework curriculum in animal care, wellness and health. Youth will be responsible for the care and well-being of shelter dogs while helping the dogs acclimate to a new environment, preparing the dogs for the 14-week course at Juvenile Hall. Santiago Canyon College Continuing Education Department will provide "Concepts in Dog Training" Certificates of Completion to all participants who complete this program.

Training Concepts and Practical Dog Training

The concepts and practical dog training begins with an initial four-week period, with the youth training in group and classroom settings. Upon successful completion of the initial training, the youth will continue with a subsequent ten-week training period with trainee dogs. At the end of this period, the dog candidates

can be certified as adoptable to the general public, and a graduation ceremony is conducted. These training periods will emphasize positive reinforcement, build communication skills and teach the importance of responsibility and accountability to the youth. The youth who successfully complete the program will also earn a certificate of completion that is endorsed by the California Community College Chancellor's Office.

BARK

BARK is a modified program provided to youth who are serving short-term sentences, consisting of four-week instruction periods. This program focuses on providing workshops that are tailored to encourage employment for the youth in a related field, including: dog training, grooming, daycare and veterinary practices.

Performance Outcomes and Data Metrics

See Attachment C for the Performance Data and Metric requirements for the contract and programs.

Other youth who are not WIC § 707(b) offenders but are housed by the Probation Department may also be eligible for the services described in this scope of work. Probation, in its sole discretion, will determine the population to be served by this contract.

The proposed Contract is a sole source contract, as Cell Dogs is the only program in its field that has been endorsed by the California Community College Chancellor's Office. Youth who participate in the Cell Dog's program can receive continuing education certificates from Santiago Community College upon successful completion of all curriculums. These certifications are transferable to California community colleges, which helps increase the likelihood of participants continuing their college education. The Orange County Preference Policy is not applicable to this contract award.

The Cell Dogs program has operated successfully with Probation since 2010 and has consistently demonstrated positive outcomes for youth participants. Over the years, the program has graduated numerous youth, supported successful dog adoptions and maintained strong oversight and safety practices. This long-standing track record reflects the program's effectiveness in which services are delivered.

The Contract contains nonstandard insurance and indemnification language. County Counsel and County Risk Management reviewed Cell Dogs' request for nonstandard terms and approved the proposed insurance modifications but raised concerns regarding mutual indemnification and the County's liability for the acts or omissions of the contractor, subcontractors, youth participants or animals involved in the program. See Attachment D for the Risk Assessment Form.

Probation is requesting the Orange County Board of Supervisors' (Board) approval of the three-year contract with Cell Dogs for rehabilitation services, effective October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2029, in an amount not to exceed \$701,475, renewable for two additional one-year periods.

The appropriate due diligence has been conducted, and Probation has verified that the Contractor is in good standing. An analysis was completed to verify the contract provides County with persons specially trained, experienced, expert and competent to perform the special services in accordance with the law. This contract does include a subcontractor, see Attachment B for Contract Summary Form. This contract, due to the nature of the services, could require the addition of subcontractors. In order to add subcontractor(s) to the contract, the contractor must seek express consent from the department. Should the addition of a subcontractor affect the scope of work and/or contract amount, the department will bring the item back to the Board of Supervisors for approval. See Attachment B for Contract Summary Form.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Appropriations for this Contract are included in Budget Control 057 FY 2026-27 budget and will be included in the budgeting process for future years. The Contract includes provisions that the Contract is contingent upon the availability of funds and inclusion of sufficient funds in the budget approved by the Board for each fiscal year the Contract remains in effect or operation. In the event such funding is terminated or reduced, the County may terminate the Contract, reduce the County's maximum obligation or modify the Contract, without penalty.

STAFFING IMPACT:

N/A

REVIEWING AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A - Contract MA-057-26010597 with Cell Dogs, Inc.

Attachment B - Contract Summary Form

Attachment C - Performance and Data Metrics

Attachment D - Cell Dogs Risk Assessment

Attachment E - WIC § 707(b)