



**City Council
Agenda Memo**

City Council Meeting Date: 8/27/2015

TO: Robert Hanna, City Manager

FROM: James W. Childers, Director of Community Services

SUBJECT: Oral Resolution: Approving Purchase of Walk-In Freezer for Abilene Zoo

GENERAL INFORMATION

This item requests approval to purchase a new 12' x 36' seamless fiberglass walk in freezer from Polar King International, Inc. for \$65,265.30 to replace the current freezer unit. This freezer holds a variety of food products including meat, fish, vegetables and dry product all used as animal food for the thousands of animals housed in the zoo. The current freezer is the original for the zoo and is nearly 50 years old.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspection has found that the current walk in freezer does not meet their standards for the storage of animal food items. The issue pertains to the door not sealing properly and the potential for frozen product to be ruined. Unsuccessful efforts were made by both a refrigeration company and zoo maintenance staff to repair the door. Not addressing this concern could result in penalties from the USDA that range from fines to revocation of the zoo's licence to operate.

The use of a seamless fiberglass freezer allows zoo staff to ensue that the stored food isn't contaminated by blood and other substances getting caught in the seams of a conventional panel constructed freezer. The fiberglass construction also greatly eases staff's ability to clean the unit. This purchase is being treated as a sole source because Polar King is the only manufacturer of seamless fiberglass freezers and holds the patents for this design.

FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT

The funding for the new freezer was approved as part of the FY15 Revised budget. The \$65,265.30 price includes the shipping and setting the unit in place at the zoo.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends replacement of the freezer.

BOARD OR COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION