



## COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE STRATEGIC FUNDING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### **Completion of the Three-Year Funding Plan**

In order to achieve/maintain full accreditation status, the College of Veterinary Medicine needed additional faculty and clinicians. In cooperation with the legislature, a three-year phased funding plan was developed. Years one and two of the three-year plan have been funded. The requested funding for the final year of the three-year plan will enable the College to hire the remaining faculty and technicians to stabilize the teaching mission of the animal teaching hospital while also providing specialty clinical services to referring veterinarians across the state.

**FUNDING REQUEST: \$2,133,532**

#### **Increasing In-State Student Admissions**

A number of years ago, due to consecutive and significant downturns in the state's overall revenue, the College of Veterinary Medicine was forced to admit a larger percentage of out-of-state students to meet its budgetary obligations. While this action was necessary, it consequently lowered the number of in-state students that could be admitted, due to class size limitations. The College of Veterinary Medicine has an approved class size of 106 students set by the accrediting body. Currently, of the 106 admitted students, 58 are in-state students and 48 are out-of-state students. In order to meet the desired goal of producing more rural veterinarians, the in-state/out-of-state student ratio must be altered. This modification will require **an infusion of \$5,184,000 of recurring annual appropriations.**

**FUNDING REQUEST: \$5,184,000**

#### **Placing and Retaining Rural Veterinarians**

Pursuant to the Dr. Lee Denney Act of 2024, scholarship and loan forgiveness programs were established to provide incentives for veterinary students to locate their veterinary practice in rural Oklahoma communities. In fiscal year 2024-2025, \$600,000 was appropriated by the legislature to initiate the scholarship and loan forgiveness program. All of the funds have been awarded and not all applicants were able to be funded due to the cap of the funding received. The current appropriation level of \$600,000 will fund six students per cycle. Given the ongoing shortage of large animal veterinary practitioners, coupled with the popularity of the program in its first year of operation, it is desirable to continue to fund the scholarship and loan forgiveness program at least at its current level of \$600,000 per year. Increased funding levels would of course result in greater progress on the rural veterinary shortage challenge.

**FUNDING REQUEST: \$600,000**

### **Mobile Food Animal Veterinary Medicine**

It is well established that a shortage of food animal veterinarians exists in a large number of rural Oklahoma communities. A program is proposed to establish a team of eight regional mobile food and large animal veterinarians to meet the needs of food animal producers and breeders. These large animal veterinarians would be placed in designated shortage areas and equipped with a mobile veterinary truck equipped with necessary supplies to provide on-site services.

**FUNDING REQUEST: \$3,436,400**

### **Veterinary Teaching Hospital Facilities**

The College of Veterinary Medicine has been functioning in out-of-date facilities for the past four decades. The OSU Veterinary Medicine Authority was created in 2023 to receive appropriations to begin to address the critical capital needs of the College. To date \$79 million has been appropriated to begin the recapitalization; however, after architectural and mechanical consultation it has become apparent that the current facility is grossly inadequate. Based upon all of the relevant factors facing the College of Veterinary Medicine, including accreditation deficiencies, it has been determined that the construction of new facilities is in the best interests of the University and the State. **A capital infusion of \$295 million is needed to construct new teaching hospital and ranch facilities. The proposed complex will include a large animal hospital, a small animal clinic and surgery center and an expanded ranch facility.**



The \$295 million would be allocated from the Legacy Fund and amortized over 20 years, requiring only the annual debt service payment of \$14.75 million to be appropriated each year.

**FUNDING REQUEST: \$14,750,000**