

**Requested Council Meeting Date: December 5, 2016**

**Item: Council Bill No. 2016-383**

**Originating Department: PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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**Attachments:** 1) CDBG Agreement  
2) Council Bill No 2016-383

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Department Head: Troy Bolander

City Attorney: Peter Edwards

City Manager: Sam Anselm

Finance Director: Leslie Haase

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**INTRODUCTION:**

The following agreement permits the City of Joplin to provide a financial incentive package to Heartland Pet Food Manufacturing, Inc. for the creation of jobs in the City of Joplin.

**DISCUSSION:**

Heartland Pet Food Manufacturing is a subsidiary of Blue Buffalo, one of the nation's premier producers of high-quality pet food products. Blue Buffalo selected Joplin for this first manufacturing facility in 2013 and the current 425,000 sq. ft. facility opened in 2014. The company now plans an 112,000 sq. ft. addition and equipment for the production of pet snacks and treats. The expansion will add forty-five additional jobs to the current job base of more than 150.

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Forgivable Loan:** A one-hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) forgivable CDBG loan will be provided over a two-year period. The loan will be forgiven if Heartland Pet Food Manufacturing meets the conditions of the agreement including the creation of at least 46 new jobs and 51% (24) of the jobs include low-to-moderate income hires. If Heartland fails to create the required jobs or fails to meet their obligations in the contract, they will be required to payback the full amount of the loan and property purchased with CDBG assistance becomes property of the City of Joplin. Eligible uses of the loan include equipment/computer purchases and new employee training.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff believes the agreement contains the necessary financial assistance to help Heartland Pet Food Manufacturing, Inc. create additional jobs in Joplin.