

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. 911-019/PI-118
Public Service Commission, on)
its own motion, to implement) HEARING OFFICER ORDER
provisions of LB 1222 [2006] and) RELEASING MODIFIED 911-SAM
to establish a permanent funding) FOR COMMENT
mechanism for wireless enhanced)
911 service.) Entered: July 24, 2012

BY THE HEARING OFFICER:

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

On February 23, 2010, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) entered an order pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-465(1)(e) adopting a permanent funding mechanism and process to provide funding for the implementation and provision of enhanced 911 service.

On April 17, 2012, the Commission entered an order expanding eligible expenses to include certain personnel expenses directly related to the receipt and processing of 911 calls.¹ Personnel costs were not previously factored into the permanent funding mechanism and therefore the allocations to public safety answering points (PSAPs) do not reflect those costs. The addition to the list of eligible expenses did not increase funds allocated to PSAPs through the permanent funding mechanism.

Therefore, the Commission proposed amending the current permanent funding mechanism to include a personnel cost module and in order to modify allocations to PSAPs for the 2012-2013 funding year consistent with the expansion of eligible costs.

After hearing on May 23, 2012, the Commission entered an order on June 27, 2012 directing staff that, in addition to the annual update of the model, Commission staff should investigate the possibility of modifying the 911-SAM in the following respects:

- a) include a personnel cost module within the PSAP cost category pursuant to the Commission staff proposal;
- b) a possible reduction in the surcharge; and

¹ In the Matter of the Commission, on its own motion, seeking to investigate and determine costs eligible for funding from the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-465(2)(b) and (c), Application No. 911-054/PI-181 Order Amending List of Eligible Expenses (Apr. 17, 2012).

- c) simplify wireless service provider funding by phasing out the individual grant program and transitioning funding for capital expenditures to the monthly allocation.

The modifications ordered by the Commission were intended to increase efficiencies and decrease costs through streamlining the funding process at the Commission level and avoid hindering current consolidation efforts by PSAPs and over time, reduce the fund level to allow for at least a six (6) months reserve.

Pursuant to the Commission's June 27, 2012 order, the modified 911-SAM and resulting allocations are posted on the Commission's website at psc.nebraska.gov. Modifications made include:

- a) The implementation of annual inputs including the surcharge amount, wireless service provider support per tower and the wireless service provider grant cap.
- b) A reduction in the surcharge amount from \$0.50 to \$0.45.
- c) Implementation of the Personnel Module in PSAP Cost Category calculations and
- d) Adjustments to reserve amounts to comply with Commission direction.

All interested parties may file comments on the modified model and resulting allocations with the Commission **on or before 3:00 p.m. on August 21, 2012**. All parties filing comments should file one original and five (5) paper copies and email one electronic copy to brandy.zierott@nebraska.gov and angela.melton@nebraska.gov.

Hearing on this matter shall be scheduled for **August 28, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. CDT** in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln.

For the convenience of interested parties, the Hearing Officer finds that the hearing shall also be held via video conferencing at the following sites:

Ainsworth Public Library, 5th and Main, Ainsworth, Nebraska;

Columbus Public Library, Columbus Room, Second Floor, 2504 14th Street, Columbus, Nebraska;

McMillen Hall Room 208, 1205 East 3rd Street, McCook, Nebraska;

Northeast Community College, Maclay Building, Room 167A, 801 East Benjamin Avenue, Norfolk, Nebraska; and

Panhandle Research & Extension Center, High Plains Room, 4502 Avenue I, Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

The hearing will be held in legislative format. Therefore, no cross examination will be permitted. However, the Commissioners and Commission staff reserve the right to ask questions.

If auxiliary aids or reasonable accommodations are needed for attendance at the meeting, please call the Commission at (402) 471-3101. For people with hearing/speech impairments, please call the Commission at (402) 471-0213 (TDD) or the Nebraska Relay System at (800) 833-7352 (TDD) or (800) 833-0920 (Voice). Advance notice of at least seven days is needed when requesting an interpreter.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Hearing Officer that the revised E911 SAM be posted on the Commission's website www.psc.nebraska.gov.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all interested parties should file comments with the Commission **on or before 3:00 p.m. on August 21, 2012**. All parties filing comments should file one original and five (5) paper copies and e-mail one electronic copy to brandy.zierott@nebraska.gov and angela.melton@nebraska.gov.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that a hearing on this matter shall be scheduled for **August 28, 2012 at 1:30 p.m.** in the Commission Hearing Room, 1200 N Street, Suite 300, Lincoln, Nebraska and via video conference at the locations listed herein.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 24th day of
July, 2011.

By: _____
Gerald L. Vap
Hearing Officer

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Application No. 911-019/PI-118

Page 3

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Hearing Officer