

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of Howard County,) Application No. 911-023.14
St. Paul, seeking funding)
approval for recurring and non-) ORDER APPROVING FUNDING
recurring costs of Enhanced) REQUEST IN PART
Wireless 911 implementation.)
) Entered: March 20, 2007

BY THE COMMISSION:

By written request for funding dated December 8, 2006, Howard County, St. Paul, sought funding from the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund for expenses for implementing and providing enhanced wireless 911 service.

In its application, Howard County sought non-recurring costs in the amount of **\$117,398.29** for the purchase and installation of equipment necessary to implement enhanced wireless 911 service. Howard County currently uses Motorola Centralink equipment which will no longer be supported by the manufacturer, therefore crippling the county's ability to maintain and upgrade the equipment. Additionally, Howard County seeks **\$32,902.68** over 5 years for software maintenance and **\$22,013.94** over 5 years for hardware maintenance.

Howard County provided supporting documentation for the equipment and associated expenses from its vendor, Positron. The Enhanced Wireless 911 Advisory Board considered Howard County's request at its December 11, 2006 meeting and recommended that the Commission approve payment in the amount of **\$118,259.22**, which included costs for two IP phones.

The costs of several items listed in the supporting documentation exceed the prices contained in Positron's response to the Commission's Request for Proposal (RFP). All costs contained within the request for funding and supporting documentation are set forth in the confidential attachment Appendix A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference. Those items listed in bold print are priced above the RFP pricing and include \$504.64 for PowerMAP and \$1,482.00 for training.

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

This request for additional funding is being processed pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-442 to 86-470. (Cum. Supp.

2006), 291 Neb. Admin. Code, Chapter 1, Section 5, Progression Order No. 5 in Commission Docket No. 911-001, entered July 16, 2002 and the Interim Policy established in Progression Order No. 1 in Commission Docket No. 911-017/PI-116, entered February 13, 2007 (Interim Policy).

Based upon the request for funding, supporting documentation, and in consideration of the recommendation of the Advisory Board, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that costs requested, subject to the limitations set forth below, are eligible under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-465 as all costs have been incurred or will be incurred for the purchase, installation, maintenance or operation of telecommunications equipment and telecommunications services required for the provision of enhanced wireless 911 service.

This funding request was received prior to February 16, 2007. Pursuant to the Interim Policy, the Commission therefore considers this funding request for full reimbursement without being subject to the wireless/landline allocation factor established in the Commission's February 17, 2007 order.

Howard County's request includes costs associated with a five (5) year maintenance and service plan for both equipment and software. The Commission finds that maintenance of the equipment and software is essential to ensure the proper operation of the statewide 911 system and should be funded to the extent funds are available during this interim period, subject to change based upon the availability of funds and the permanent funding mechanism.

The Commission finds that the funding request shall be granted only to the extent the pricing complies with Positron's response to the RFP. However, the Commission will not approve any costs associated with IP phones as telephone systems have not previously been funded.

Therefore, the request for funding should be granted in part in the amount of **\$115,411.65** in non recurring costs and **\$32,902.68** paid in annual installments over 5 years for software maintenance and **\$22,013.94** paid in annual installments over 5 years for hardware maintenance subject to the limitations set forth herein. Said amounts are consistent with the pricing set forth in the vendor's response to the RFP. However, this amount does not include costs in excess of the vendor's response to the RFP or costs associated with IP phones as outlined in Appendix A.

The Fund shall therefore pay to Howard County the amount of **\$115,411.65** consistent with the terms of this order and the amounts set forth in Appendix A. Additionally, the Fund shall pay **\$10,983.32** to Howard County annually for a period of five years for software and equipment maintenance, subject to change based upon the availability of funding and the permanent funding mechanism. Howard County may request that these amounts be paid directly to the vendor.

Should Howard County wish to be heard by the Commission regarding those portions of the funding request in excess of the response to the RFP or costs related to IP phones it shall notify the Commission in writing **within fifteen (15) days** of this order and the matter will be set for hearing.

The Commission reserves the right to modify any recurring costs associated with this funding request consistent with amendments to the Interim Policy or the establishment of a permanent funding mechanism.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund shall pay to Howard County the amount of **\$115,411.65** consistent with the terms of this order and the amounts set forth in Appendix A for the equipment necessary to provide enhanced wireless 911 service.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Fund shall pay **\$10,983.32** to Howard County annually for software and equipment maintenance consistent with the terms of this order and the amounts set forth in Appendix A.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED should Howard County wish to be heard by the Commission regarding those portions of the funding request in excess of the response to the RFP or costs related to IP phones, it shall notify the Commission in writing **within fifteen (15) days** of this order and the matter will be set for hearing.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 20th day of
March, 2007.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director