

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. 911-042.02
Public Service Commission, on)
its own motion, seeking to)
administer funding for public) ORDER APPROVING USE OF
safety answering points for the) FUNDING AND ADVANCE OF FUNDS
implementation and provision of)
Enhanced Wireless 911 service:)
Dodge County.) Entered: June 18, 2013

BY THE COMMISSION:

On or about April 5, 2013, Dodge County filed a request to use the enhanced wireless 911 set aside funds and to be granted an advance against future funding for the purchase of certain software licenses and a computer aided dispatch system at a total cost of \$243,984.01. Dodge County currently does not have sufficient funds accumulated to pay for the entire purchase and asks that it be allowed to use set aside funds and a sufficient advance from the Commission pay 79% of the costs based upon the county's current wireless/wireline call ratio and deduct an appropriate amount from future allocations.

A hearing was held on the matter on May 22, 2013. Angela Melton appeared on behalf of Commission staff. Ms. Shelly Holzerland testified on behalf of Dodge County.

E V I D E N C E

Dodge County is requesting approval to use its set aside funds in the amount of **\$143,204.55** and an advance of up to **\$49,542.81**, toward 79% of the total costs based upon the county's wireless/wireline call ratio.

The Wireless Enhanced 911 Advisory Board considered the request at its January 24, 2011 meeting and recommended the request be approved. A copy of the minutes was entered into the record as an exhibit.

Ms. Holzerland stated that Dodge County and the City of Fremont are in the process of merging the city and county 911 centers and require new equipment for the joint communications center including the 911 equipment, an uninterrupted power supply and a log-in recorder. She further testified that the equipment is capable of allowing the center to share and consolidate with additional counties in the future.

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

The Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) adopted the permanent cost model to administer funding for public safety answering points for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service under Docket No. 911-019/PI-118. Pursuant to the permanent funding mechanism, Dodge County will be receiving a monthly payment in the amount of **\$8,133.46** for the 2013-2014 funding year.

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 the costs requested are eligible under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-465 as 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.

Pursuant to the permanent funding mechanism, PSAPs are permitted to retain up to seventy-five percent (75%) of the amount allocated to that PSAP for the future purchase of equipment and software. However, PSAPs are not required to wait to apply for funding for these items until they have saved sufficient funds from their monthly allocation to cover the cost. To the extent that there is an insufficient balance in the PSAP's equipment and software fund, after an accounting is received of the funds the PSAP has available, the Commission will pay the appropriate percentage of the cost of the equipment and software and a deduction will be made from the future annual allocation to the PSAP until the expense is reimbursed to the Fund. This option is available only once to each PSAP.

Based upon the above, the Commission finds that an advance of funding for Dodge County should be approved in the amount up to **\$49,542.81**. Further Dodge County's request to use set aside funds for the purposes set forth herein is approved. Consistent with the allocation determined in Docket 911-019/PI-118, a deduction up to **\$825.71** shall be made from Dodge County's monthly allocation over a sixty-month period commencing once payment has been made from the fund. The final amount to be deducted will be determined based upon actual costs.

The sixty-month deduction period allows Dodge County to continue saving funds from their monthly allocation to cover any future purchases of equipment and software and still reimburse the Fund. This reimbursement period should not be viewed as a

standard repayment period for all funding requests for a PSAP's equipment and software. The Commission will determine the appropriate length of time for Fund repayment on a case-by-case basis based upon the amount requested, the PSAP's monthly allocation and other relevant factors.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the funding request for the Dodge County Sheriff's Office is hereby approved, as set forth herein including an advance of up to **\$49,542.81** and its request to utilize set aside funds in the amount of **\$143,204.55**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a deduction in the amount of up to **\$825.71** shall be made from Dodge County's monthly allocation over a sixty-month period, commencing once payment has been made.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 18th day of June, 2013.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Deputy Director

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COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:



//s// Anne Boyle

//s// Frank E. Landis



Chair

ATTEST:



Deputy Director