

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska        ) Application No. 911-042.10  
Public Service Commission, on        )  
its own motion, seeking to        )  
administer funding for public        ) ORDER APPROVING USE OF  
safety answering points for the       ) FUNDING  
implementation and provision of       )  
Enhanced Wireless 911 service:       )  
Buffalo County.                        ) Entered: March 12, 2013

BY THE COMMISSION:

On or about December 5, 2012, Buffalo County filed a request for funding to upgrade its 911 equipment and software at a cost of \$183,290.39. Of the total, \$143,324.95 is attributable to upgrades at the primary public safety answering point (PSAP) and \$39,965.44 relates to equipment located at their back-up facility. Buffalo County is requesting that it be permitted to use its set aside funding in the amount of **\$151,031.28**, representing 82.4% of the total costs based upon wireless call volumes.

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 PSAPs for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service under Docket No. 911-019/PI-118.

Prior to the adoption of the permanent funding mechanism, the Commission provided funding solely for the primary PSAP location and not for any secondary or back-up centers.<sup>1</sup> Such a policy was justified at the time as the implementation of enhanced wireless 911 service was not complete. However, with the adoption of the permanent funding mechanism and the completion of implementation, the focus of the program has shifted to provision of enhanced wireless 911 service. Therefore, the intent of the funding process is to provide flexibility to PSAPs to allocate their resources and set priorities for eligible expenses in order to provide the service. The Commission did not specifically prohibit the use of wireless enhanced 911 funds for upgrades to back-up

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<sup>1</sup> See Docket No. 911-017/PI-117, "In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, to establish interim policies for the Administration of the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund pending Implementation of LB 1222 [2006]", Progression Order No. 1, (Feb. 12, 2007).

PSAP locations.<sup>2</sup> We find no reason to treat such upgrades differently at this time.

Based upon the request for funding and supporting documentation, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that a portion of 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.

Based upon the above, the Commission finds that funding request for Buffalo County should be approved in the amount of **\$151,031.28**, which includes upgrades to both the primary and secondary locations.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the request to use set aside funds filed by Buffalo County is hereby approved as set forth herein in the amount of **\$151,031.28**, representing 82.4% of the total costs based upon wireless call volumes.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 12th day of March, 2013.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Executive Director

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<sup>2</sup> See Docket No. 911-019/PI-118, "In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, to implement provisions of LB 1222 [2006] and to establish a permanent funding mechanism for wireless enhanced 911 service."

Application No. 911-042.10

Page 2

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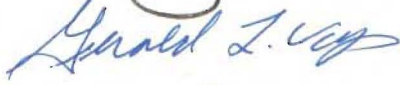

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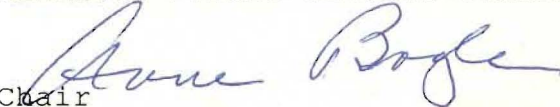
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//s//Anne C. Boyle  
//s//Frank E. Landis

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