

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. 911-042.33
Public Service Commission, on)
its own motion, seeking to)
administer funding for public)
safety answering points for the) ORDER APPROVING FUNDING
implementation and provision of)
Enhanced Wireless 911 service:)
Lincoln Emergency)
Communications Center.) Entered: November 7, 2017

BY THE COMMISSION:

On or about March 30, 2010, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) opened the above-mentioned docket, on its own motion, seeking to administer funding for public safety answering points for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service pursuant to the permanent funding mechanism.¹

On December 15, 2015, the Commission approved a funding request by the Lincoln Emergency Communications Center ("Lincoln"), along with Cass, Clay, Fillmore, Jefferson, Johnson, Nemaha, Nuckolls, Otoe, Seward, and Thayer Counties; York County 911; the City of Beatrice; and the City of Falls City (together, "Applicants") to use set-aside funds for the purchase of new equipment that will result in fourteen PSAPs covering the city of Crete and sixteen counties: Cass, Clay, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Nuckolls, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, Saline, Seward, Thayer and York. The total approved amount under that order was \$1,682,158.93.²

The total amount authorized was divided on a pro rata basis amongst the PSAPs. The City of Lincoln (Lincoln) was approved for funding for a primary site and a backup site. The primary site was approved for \$689,216.00, and the backup site was approved for \$107,459.20. Lincoln began the process of

¹ Neb. Admin. Code Title 291, Ch. 15 (July 16, (2011); *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).

² *In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer funding for public safety answering points for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service: Lincoln Emergency Communications Center*, Application No. 911-042.33 (Dec. 15, 2015)

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Application No. 911-042.33

Page 2

purchasing and installing the necessary equipment for both sites. The plan was to use twelve Windstream SIP phones at the backup site.

On October 4, 2017, Lincoln submitted an application to use additional set aside funds. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Lincoln was forced to use the backup site as the primary site while repairs were made at the primary site. Two of the SIP phones had already been installed at the back up site. The site was unable to utilize the SIP phones because they did not allow for continuity of operations with multiple line appearances and routine call management for the center. As a result, shortly after going live on January 31, 2017, Lincoln instructed Windstream to remove the SIP phones and replace them with Vesta systems that were to be installed in the primary site.

The decommissioned SIP phones were credited back to Lincoln in the amount of \$21,148.70. Windstream and Airbus recommended switching to a Vesta call handling system at both sites. Based on these recommendations, and given the time that has lapsed since the 2015 order, the cost is significantly higher than originally anticipated. The 2015 project for the backup site was anticipated to cost \$134,324.00 and was approved subject to the wireless/wireline ratio for \$107,459.20.

In light of the new need, the original amount is insufficient. Lincoln will need to replace the equipment previously designated for the primary site that is now being used at the backup site in order to restore functionality to the primary site. Lincoln now requests \$247,270.05 based on the new quote and invoice. This total includes the credit mentioned above. This amount would be subject to the wireless/wireline ratio at 79%. As such, Lincoln would be eligible to use set aside funds in the amount of \$195,343.34. This would require approval of an additional \$87,884.14 over the amount previously approved in the 2015 order.

Lincoln also filed documentation regarding monthly recurring costs for support. Pursuant to the permanent funding mechanism, PSAPs are permitted to set aside up to seventy-five percent (75%) of their annual funding for the future purchase of equipment and software. Such set aside funds may also be used to pay the first year of multi-year maintenance or support agreements. Set aside funds may not be used to pay networking costs or future years of multi-year maintenance or support agreements. Any such costs must be paid from a PSAP's annually allocated funds or other sources, and do not require prior

approval of the Commission.³ Monthly recurring costs for support is \$5,816.00, for a first year total of \$69,762.00. This amount is also subject to the wireless wireline ratio for a total of \$4,594.64, for a first year total of \$55,135.68.

The Enhanced Wireless 911 Advisory Board considered the request at its October 23, 2017, meeting and recommended that the Commission approve the funding requests subject to the wireless/wireline ratio.

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.

Based upon the request, 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.

In light of the above, the Commission finds that the Lincoln Emergency Communications Center's request to use set-aside funds for the purchase of equipment should be approved. The Commission finds that Lincoln may use set-aside funds in an amount up to \$195,343.34 for eligible non-recurring costs. \$107,459.20 having been previously approved in the December 2015 Order, the Commission finds an additional \$87,884.14 of set aside funds should be approved for eligible non-recurring costs. \$55,135.68 should be approved for the first year of recurring monthly maintenance and support costs. The total amount to be approved pursuant to this order is **\$143,019.82**.

Lincoln will have recurring costs associated with this project. Due to the fact that these costs will be paid with annual allocated funds, it is not necessary to approve those specific amounts in this Order.

³ In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer funding for public safety answering points for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service: City of North Platte, Application No. 911-042.18. Order Approving Funding (August 29, 2017).

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Application No. 911-042.33

Page 4

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the funding request for the use of set aside funds for the Lincoln Emergency Communications Center is hereby approved as set forth herein in an amount not to exceed \$143,019.82.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 7th day of November, 2017.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Mary Riddin

Crystal Snodgrass

Regina

Tim Schram
Chairman

ATTEST:

Michael G. Hall
Executive Director

//s//Frank E. Landis

//s//Tim Schram