

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska ) Application No. 911-042.57  
Public Service Commission, on )  
its own motion, seeking to )  
administer funding for public ) ORDER APPROVING FUNDING  
safety answering points for the )  
implementation and provision of )  
Enhanced Wireless 911 service: )  
City of Alliance. ) Entered: March 29, 2016

BY THE COMMISSION:

On April 29, 2015, the City of Alliance (Alliance) filed a request seeking retroactive approval of its use of set-aside funds toward the purchase of new 911 CPE equipment and GeoComm mapping software in the amount of \$204,984.46. Alliance serves the city of Alliance, the village of Hemingford and the surrounding rural area in Box Butte County.

The expenditures made for the equipment and software were discovered during Alliance's 911-SAM audit, and the funding request was filed at the request of the Commission. The Wireless Enhanced 911 Advisory Board considered the request at its July 13, 2015 meeting and recommended that the request be approved.

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.

In its funding request, Alliance requested retroactive approval to use its set-aside funds for the following: mapping servers/computers; CenturyLink equipment, five (5) year CenturyLink maintenance, and five (5) year CenturyLink software upgrades; GeoComm license fee, on-site training, and five (5) year GeoComm software maintenance.

All costs are shared costs subject to the wireless/wireline ratio. Alliance has a wireless ratio for the 2015-2016 funding year of 73% wireless. Alliance made its purchases during the 2013-2014 funding year, at which time Alliance had a wireless ratio of 78% wireless. Additionally, some costs were paid during the 2014-2015 funding year, at which time Alliance had a wireless ratio of 74% wireless. Utilizing the appropriate wireless ratios, up to \$70,934.91 in equipment costs would have been eligible for funding

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using set-aside funds. Alliance paid \$66,088.72 for its equipment utilizing the appropriate wireless ratios, which was well below the potentially eligible amount.

Additionally, up to \$91,292.97 of submitted maintenance costs are eligible for funding. However, it was found through the audit process that Alliance paid its maintenance costs for multiple years in advance. These costs are eligible for funding on an annual basis only, and should be paid with annually allocated funds instead of set-aside funds. Alliance has worked with Commission staff to correct its incorrect expenditures of wireless funds. Alliance has paid \$17,883.63 in eligible maintenance costs for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 funding years. Therefore, \$73,409.34 in maintenance costs are due to be paid, on a year-by-year basis, from Alliance's annually allocated funds utilizing the wireless ratio for the funding year in which future maintenance payments are to be made.

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 that have been incurred for the purchase, installation, maintenance or operation of telecommunications equipment and telecommunications services required for the provision of wireless 911 service.

The Commission finds that Alliance's request for retroactive approval to use set-aside funds for the purchase of equipment and software should be approved. Maintenance costs should be paid on a year-by-year basis from annually allocated funds utilizing the wireless ratio for the funding year in which the maintenance payments are to be made.

Alliance should ensure that any future funding requests be submitted to the Commission for consideration and approval prior to any expenditure of funds or risk denial of future funding requests.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the funding request for the City of Alliance is hereby approved as set forth herein.

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ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Guadalupe Lopez*  
*Crystal Knodes*  
*Paul J. Jorgensen*

//s//Frank E. Landis  
//s//Tim Schram

*Tim Schram*  
Chairman

ATTEST: *Jeddy L. Puley*  
Executive Director