

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska ) Application No. 911-042.60  
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: )  
Thayer County. ) Entered: October 31, 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.<sup>1</sup>

On or about October 11, 2017, Thayer County ("Thayer"), along with the City of Beatrice, Cass County, City of Lincoln, the City of Falls City, Clay County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Nemaha County, Nuckolls County, Otoe County, Saline County, Seward County, Fillmore County, and York County (together, the "Applicants") filed individual applications to use set-aside funds to pay GeoComm for the creation of an aggregated regional Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data set for the Applicants' combined service areas (the "Region"), plus three years of annual maintenance including quality control/quality assurance services (the "Project.")

Each Applicant submitted a request to use set-aside funds in order to pay its respective share of the overall cost of the Project. According to documentation provided by the Applicants, the total one-time cost for the Project is \$13,680.00, with annual recurring maintenance costs totaling \$24,398.00 per year for three years. The costs of the Project are proposed to be shared pro-rata based upon the proportion of Region's total population served by each PSAP. According to the documentation provided by the Applicants, Thayer's pro rata share of the Project's cost is 1.00%, which is equal to \$136.80 of the one-time cost and \$243.98 of each year's annual maintenance cost.

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<sup>1</sup> 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, Application No. 911-042, ORDER OPENING DOCKET (March 30, 2010).

Such costs are subject to the wireless/wireline ratio.<sup>2</sup> The wireless ratio for Thayer County for the 2017-2018 funding year is 57% wireless.

The Wireless Enhanced 911 Advisory Board considered the Applicants' requests for funding of the Project at its October 23, 2017, meeting and recommended that the Project 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.<sup>3</sup>

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 for funding as costs incurred for the purchase, installation, maintenance or operation of telecommunications equipment and telecommunications services required for the provision of enhanced wireless 911 service.<sup>4</sup> PSAP costs for the purchase and maintenance of software, including GIS data, are eligible for funding pursuant to Docket No. 911-019/PI-118.<sup>5</sup>

Pursuant to the permanent funding mechanism, PSAPs are permitted to set aside up to seventy-five percent (75%) of their annual funding allocation for the future purchase of equipment and software.<sup>6</sup> A GIS data set is software, and therefore eligible to be purchased with set aside funds. Set aside funds may also be used to pay the first year of multi-year maintenance agreements.<sup>7</sup> However, set aside funds may not be used to pay future years of multi-year maintenance or support agreements. Any such future costs must be paid from a PSAP's annually allocated funds or other

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<sup>2</sup> 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. 911-019/PI-118, PROGRESSION ORDER NO. 1 (April 6, 2010).

<sup>3</sup> 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. 911-019/PI-118, FINAL ORDER ADOPTING MODEL AND APPLICATION PROCESS (February 23, 2010).

<sup>4</sup> NEB. REV. STAT. § 86-465

<sup>5</sup> App. No. 911-019/PI-118, *supra* note 3.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> See, e.g., 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 (August 29, 2017).

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sources, and do not require prior approval of the Commission. Therefore, amounts necessary to pay future years of multi-year maintenance costs need not be approved pursuant to this Order.

Pursuant to the wireless ratio on file with the Commission for Thayer, the amount eligible for funding using set-aside funds would be up to \$77.98 with respect to one-time costs and \$139.07 with respect to first year maintenance costs, for a total of \$217.05 when utilizing the wireless ratio on file with the Commission.

Based upon the above, the Commission finds that use of set-aside funding by Thayer County should be approved in the amount of up to **\$217.05**.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that funding for Thayer County is hereby approved in the amount of up to **\$217.05**.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 31<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2017.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Mary Redden*  
*Crystal Goodwin*  
*P. J. Johnson*

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

*Tim Schram*  
Chairman

ATTEST  
*Michael R. Hill*  
Executive Director