

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,) Application No. 911-060.52
on its own motion, seeking to)
investigate and determine)
whether additional funds from)
the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund) ORDER APPROVING APPLICATION
should be made available to)
public safety answering points)
for costs to implement text to)
911 solutions: Cherry County.)
) Entered: July 5, 2017

BY THE COMMISSION:

On May 6, 2014, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) entered an order on its own motion seeking to investigate and determine whether additional funds from the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund should be made available to public safety answering points (PSAPs) for costs to implement text to 911 solutions.

On November 4, 2014, the Commission released Progression Order No. 3 in this docket, setting out the procedure to fund text to 911 outside the cost model for PSAPs ready to implement technology solutions on an interim basis. The staff proposal adopted set out the application process for PSAPs seeking interim funding for text to 911 solutions.

On or about December 4, 2015, KBRC Regional E-911 (KBRC), also known Region 24 PSAPs, consisting of Keya Paha, Cherry, Rock and Cherry Counties, submitted a joint application in this docket requesting text to 911 funding for a Direct IP solution. The application listed \$37,784.60 in non-recurring costs and \$1,243.60 in monthly recurring costs for 36 months. The Enhanced Wireless 911 Advisory Board considered such funding request at its February 22, 2016 meeting and recommended that the Commission approve the request. In addition, the Advisory Board suggested that options for reducing the cost of text-to-911 services continue to be explored.

Subsequent to the Advisory Board meeting, KBRC submitted a revised joint funding request for an alternative solution, known as VPN, reflecting a lower cost to provide text to 911 service. The amended application requested \$3,000.00 in non-recurring costs and \$540.00 in monthly recurring costs for 36 months. On August

16, 2016, the Commission entered an Order approving funding for KBRC's alternative solution.

Following the adoption of such funding Order, KBRC determined that the alternative solution approved pursuant to the August 16, 2016, Funding Order was not viable. On October 14, 2016, KBRC submitted a revised funding request for text to 911 services, which listed \$23,606.44 in non-recurring costs and \$881.36 in monthly recurring costs for 36 months. The Enhanced Wireless 911 Advisory Board considered KBRC's funding request at its October 26, 2016 meeting, but did not approve the request, citing cost concerns. Instead, the Advisory Board recommended that additional alternatives be considered.

On April 26, 2017, KBRC submitted a further revised joint application seeking funding for Cherry and Brown¹ Counties, requesting funding for a solution that would integrate text to 911 service from INDigital into the PSAPs' existing call processing equipment using a direct IP approach for delivery over VPN. The application listed \$15,165.00 in non-recurring costs and \$1,421.55 in annual recurring costs. Based on the vendor quote attached to the joint funding request, Cherry County's share of the non-recurring costs is \$7,582.50 and its share of the annual recurring costs is \$473.85 for three years.

The Enhanced Wireless 911 Advisory Board considered KBRC's funding request at its May 8, 2017 meeting and recommended that the Commission approve the request.

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

According to Neb. Rev. Stat. 86-465(2), costs incurred by public safety answering points for the provision of enhanced wireless 911 service may be eligible for payment from the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund, according to standards and criteria established by the Commission.

Pursuant to the staff proposal adopted in Progression Order No. 3 in this docket, the Commission may approve funding requests for text to 911 technology solutions costs such as text control center contracts, staff training, trunks necessary for additional text traffic, other costs related to the provision of text to 911 services not attributed more generally to 911 emergency response

¹ Funding was not sought for Rock or Keya Paha Counties. According to Douglas Fox, Director of Region 24 Emergency Management, Cherry County is now receiving 911 calls on behalf of Keya Paha County.

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services. Progression Order No. 3 further specified that the Commission intended to limit approval of text to 911 related service contracts to no more than three years.

The joint application was reviewed by technical subject matter experts, Mission Critical Partners, who advised the Commission that MCP held no reservation in the technical design of the solution.

The Commission finds the joint application submitted by KBRC contains eligible costs with respect to Cherry County under the interim text to 911 funding orders. PSAPs must submit invoices for payment by the Commission or submit invoices with evidence of payment for reimbursement to the PSAP from the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the text to 911 technology solution funding joint funding request submitted by Cherry County be, and is hereby, approved with respect to Cherry County in an amount not to exceed **\$7,582.50** in non-recurring costs and **\$473.85** in annual recurring costs over a three year period.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Cherry County submit required documentation to justify all expenditures for payment or reimbursement from the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 5th day of July, 2017.

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Mary Riddle
Crystal Unoades

//s//Frank E. Landis

//s//Tim Schram

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Tim Schram
Chairman

ATTEST:

Sharon L. Smith
Deputy Director