

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,) Application No. 911-060.64
on its own motion, seeking to)
investigate and determine)
whether additional funds from)
the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund) ORDER APPROVING
should be made available to) APPLICATION, IN PART
public safety answering points)
for costs to implement text to)
911 solutions: Sarpy County.) Entered: January 27, 2015

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 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.

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

On November 21, 2014 Sarpy County submitted an application in this docket requesting text to 911 funding for a Direct IP solution. The application lists \$5,937.50 of non-recurring costs for equipment and \$19,188 of monthly recurring costs for 36 months. Sarpy County requests \$2,800 for staff training for 40 dispatchers at a rate of \$35/hour for two hours of training. Sarpy County also requests \$6,478 for public education.

The application was reviewed by technical subject matter experts, Mission Critical Partners, who advised the Commission that the technology proposed by Sarpy County was Next Generation 911 compatible and covered all wireless carriers currently deploying text to 911. MCP held no reservation in the technical design of the solution; however, MCP recommended that redundant network connectivity be considered for addressing the single point of failure risk. The Commission will further investigate this issue.

On January 12, 2015 the Wireless 911 Advisory Board considered and approved Sarpy County's request for text to 911 interim funding, less \$2,800 for staff training and \$6,478 for public education.

The Commission finds the application submitted by Sarpy County contains eligible and ineligible costs under the interim text to 911 funding orders. The non-recurring costs for equipment and monthly recurring costs for 36 months are eligible costs. The rate for training is significantly higher than allowed under prior Commission orders. The 911 Support Allocation Methodology (911-SAM) contains a rate of \$14.78/hour for staff training. Using this rate, the Commission finds Sarpy County is eligible for \$1,182.40 of training costs. Documentation of staff members trained and time spent in training must be provided. Annual allocation funds may not be applied towards the text to 911 training costs to prevent double recovery of costs.

While public education is important in the implementation of text to 911 technologies, prior commission orders indicate the Commission will continue to research ways to assist PSAPs in education efforts, will assist PSAPs in developing press releases, and link to helpful resources from its website. The \$6,478 requested by Sarpy County for public education is unsubstantiated by invoices or bids. The Commission intends to deny this amount in this order, which does not preclude Sarpy County from bringing such a request in the future. The

Commission finds a consistent, statewide approach to public education is a more appropriate use of limited enhanced wireless 911 funds. The Commission intends to provide resources for public education in the near future.

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.

Should Sarpy County wish to be heard by the Commission regarding those portions of the funding request denied herein it shall notify the Commission in writing within fifteen (15) days of this order and the matter will be set for hearing.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the text to 911 technology solution funding request submitted by Sarpy County be and hereby is approved in part in an amount not to exceed twenty-six thousand three hundred seven dollars and ninety cents (\$26,307.90).

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

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 27th day of January, 2015.

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

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NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Tim Schramm

Red Johnson

Crystal Knodt

//s//Frank E. Landis

//s//Gerald L. Vap

Chairman

Gerald L. Vap

ATTEST:

Steve Meredith

Executive Director