

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of Merrick County,) Application No. PSAP-011.1
seeking supplementary funding)
approval for recurring and non-) GRANTED
recurring costs associated with)
implementation of wireless E911.) Entered: October 28, 2003

BY THE COMMISSION:

By written request for funding received June 3, 2003, Merrick County seeks additional funding from the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund for expenses of implementing and providing enhanced wireless 911 service. Merrick County has one public safety answering point (PSAP) serving throughout Merrick County. The Commission entered an order June 5, 2002, providing funding for Merrick County to proceed with Phase I wireless enhanced 911.

Merrick County seeks initial costs of \$45,722.20 to implement and provide enhanced wireless 911 service for each of the above-listed wireless carriers. Initial costs are for database upgrades, trunking infrastructure and purchase, installation, and testing of circuits for enhanced wireless 911. No recurring costs were requested.

A hearing was held in this matter on October 16, 2003, in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Two persons testified on Merrick County's behalf. Merrick County Sheriff Anthony McPhillips provided a signed contract with Frontier, the company providing the upgrades, which was entered into the record as Exhibit 4. Sheriff McPhillips testified that costs had been updated by Frontier. Stacen Gross of the consulting firm Geo Comm also testified on behalf of Merrick County. Mr. Gross testified that since the time of the application, the labor costs have decreased. The application specified a labor cost of \$8,400, but it was reduced to \$6,300.

Kara Thielen, Director of the Wireless E911 Department, testified on behalf of the Commission staff. Ms. Thielen testified that the upgrades that are the subject of this application would enable Merrick County to transfer wireless 911 calls across LATA (local access transport area) boundaries. Ms. Thielen testified that ability to transfer across LATA boundaries is immediately needed for Phase I. Ms. Thielen testified that the Wireless E911 Advisory Board recommended payment of this application in the amount of \$29,353, but that

the amount should be adjusted downward to reflect the reduction in labor costs.

Exhibit 3, the minutes of the Wireless E911 Advisory Board meeting on August 27, 2003, reflect that the advisory board recommended payment of half of the labor costs.

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

This request for funding is being processed pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-442 to 86-469 (2002 Cum. Supp.), 291 Neb. Admin. Code, Chapter 1, Section 5, and Progression Order No. 5 in Commission Docket No. 911-001, entered July 16, 2002.

Costs requested are eligible under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-465 (2002 Cum. Supp.) All costs have been incurred or will be incurred for the purchase, installation, maintenance and operation of telecommunications equipment and telecommunications services required for the provision of enhanced wireless 911 service.

Merrick County has submitted a PSAP registration in compliance with Commission Docket No. 911-001.

Based upon the request for funding, supporting documentation and evidence adduced at the hearing, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that the request for funding should be granted in part, in the amount of \$28,303. All costs of Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) surcharges and any legitimate government-imposed taxes or surcharges assessed on enhanced wireless 911 charges should also be paid. The Commission further finds that Merrick County should provide updated subscriber counts to the Commission on a quarterly basis and that the Commission should adjust payments for non-recurring and recurring charges accordingly.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Merrick County's request for funding shall be granted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that upon invoice from Merrick County, the Commission shall remit to Merrick County amounts that comport with this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any government-imposed taxes or surcharges assessed on enhanced wireless 911 charges shall be paid.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 28th day of October, 2003.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Executive Director