

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska ) Application No. 911-042.49  
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: )  
Douglas County. ) Entered: August 27, 2019

BY THE COMMISSION:

On June 4, 2019, the Douglas County ("Douglas") public safety answering point ("PSAP") filed a request to use set aside funds to purchase new West PowerOps PSAP floor operations management and monitoring equipment and software from CenturyLink Business at a total cost of \$19,691.34. Such costs stated above are shared costs which are subject to the wireless/wireline ratio. The wireless ratio for Douglas County for the 2019-2020 funding year is 77% wireless.

The Wireless Enhanced 911 Advisory Board considered the request at its July 31, 2019 meeting and recommended the request be approved.

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

Pursuant to the 911 Service system Act<sup>1</sup> (the "Act"), the Commission is responsible for allocating funding to PSAPs from the 911 Service System Fund (the "Fund").<sup>2</sup> The Fund consists primarily of surcharges collected by wireless carriers from wireless service customers.<sup>3</sup> The Act provides that money in the fund may be used to pay for costs that are determined by the Public Service Commission ("Commission") to be eligible for funding, including costs incurred by PSAPs for acquisition, installation, maintenance, and operation of telecommunications equipment and services required for the provision of 911 service.<sup>4</sup>

The funding mechanism adopted by the Commission permits PSAPs to set aside up to seventy-five percent (75%) of their annual funding allocation for future purchases of equipment and software.<sup>5</sup> Set-aside funds may also be used to pay the first year of multi-year

<sup>1</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1001 to 86-1029.03.

<sup>2</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1025(5).

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-456, 86-456.01, 86-457, 86-459, 86-466, 86-904 and 86-1028.

<sup>4</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1025(5)(c).

<sup>5</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 (Feb. 23, 2010).

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maintenance, service, support or licensing agreements.<sup>6</sup> However, set aside funds may not be used to pay future years of multi-year maintenance, service, support or licensing agreements. Any such future costs must be paid from a PSAP's annually allocated funds or other sources.<sup>7</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 911 service. PSAP costs for the purchase and maintenance of software are eligible for funding.<sup>8</sup>

Based on the wireless/wireline ratio of 77% percent for Douglas County, the amount eligible for funding using set-aside funds with respect to the proposed equipment and software is \$15,162.33.

Based upon the above, the Commission finds that use of set-aside funding by Douglas County should be approved in the amount of up to \$15,162.33.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that funding for Douglas County is hereby approved in the amount of up to \$15,162.33.

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<sup>6</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 ORDER APPROVING FUNDING (August 29, 2017).

<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: Dundy County*, Application No. 911-042.45, ORDER APPROVING APPLICATION (Dec. 4, 2018).

<sup>8</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: Clay County*, Application No. 911-042.03, ORDER APPROVING FUNDING (October 31, 2017).

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ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 27<sup>th</sup> day  
of August, 2019.

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:









NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Chair

ATTEST:



Deputy Director

