

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska        ) Application No. 911-042.62  
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:        )  
Colfax County.                        )  
  ) Entered: November 13, 2019

BY THE COMMISSION:

On or about October 10, 2019, the Public Safety Answering Point ("PSAP") operated by the Colfax County 911 Board ("Colfax County") filed a request to use set-aside funds to pay for upgrades to their VIPER call handling equipment. The total cost of the upgrade will be \$114,579.00.

Such costs sought are shared costs subject to the wireless/wireline ratio. Colfax County's wireless ratio for the 2019-2020 funding year is 83 percent wireless. Therefore, after application of the wireless/wireline ratio, the maximum amount of set-aside funds that Colfax County can apply to this request is 83 percent of \$114,579.00, which is \$95,100.60.

The Wireless Enhanced 911 Advisory Board considered the request at its October 21, 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

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<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.

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> As stated above, the amount eligible for funding using set-aside funds would be \$95,100.60 when utilizing the wireless ratio on file with the Commission for Colfax County.

Based on the request for funding and supporting documentation, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that the costs requested are eligible under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1025(5)(c) as costs that have been incurred or will be incurred for the acquisition of new equipment and related maintenance costs and license fees, and/or the acquisition, installation, maintenance, and operation of telecommunications equipment and telecommunications service required for the provision of 911 service.

Based upon the above, the Commission finds that Colfax County's request to use set-aside funds should be approved in an amount of up to **\$95,100.60**.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the funding request for Colfax County is hereby approved in an amount not to exceed **\$95,100.60**.

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<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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ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 13<sup>th</sup>  
day of November, 2019.

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Cristal Snodgrass*  
*Joe [unclear]*  
*Ken [unclear]*  
*Tim Schram*

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

*Mary Kedd's*  
Chair

ATTEST:

*Michael [unclear]*  
Executive Director