

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. 911-042.19
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: Saline County Entered: January 7, 2020

BY THE COMMISSION:

On or about November 7, 2019, the Saline County ("Saline County") public safety answering point ("PSAP") filed a request to use set-aside funds towards the purchase of Vesta Call Handling Equipment from Windstream Enterprise ("Windstream"), which will enable Saline County to join the regional network of PSAPs known as the Southeast Region. According to the Windstream proposal included with the funding request, the total cost of the requested equipment is in the amount of \$110,887.52.

The Wireless Enhanced 911 Advisory Board considered the request at its December 18, 2019 meeting and recommended that the requested funding 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 Act¹ (the "Act"), the Commission is responsible for allocating funding to PSAPs from the 911 Service System Fund (the "Fund").² The Fund consists primarily of surcharges collected by wireless carriers from wireless service customers.³ 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 the acquisition, installation, maintenance, and operation of telecommunications equipment and services required for the provision of 911 service.⁴ 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.⁵

1 Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1001 to 86-1029.03.

2 Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1025(5).

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

4 Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1025(5)(c).

5 *In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion,*

On October 16, 2018, the Commission issued an Order determining that eligible costs incurred by PSAPs to join a region may be fully paid from monies in the 911 Service System Fund, including set-aside funds, without applying the wireless/wireline ratio.⁶

Based upon the request, 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 have been incurred for the purchase, installation, maintenance or operation of telecommunications equipment and telecommunications services required for the provision of enhanced wireless 911 service.⁷ Moreover, the requested costs will be incurred by Saline County in order to join the Southeast Region. Therefore, such costs are eligible to be paid entirely from set-aside funds, without applying the wireless/wireline ratio.

Based upon the above, the Commission finds that use of set-aside funds by Saline County should be approved in an amount up to \$110,887.52.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that funding for Saline County is hereby approved in the amount of up to \$110,887.52.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 7th day of January, 2020.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Crystal Snodder
Red Johnson
Jim Debraun

Mary Ridd
Chair

ATTEST:

Michael H. S.
Executive Director

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).

⁶ 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: Chase County, Application No. 911-042.50, ORDER APPROVING FUNDING (Oct. 16, 2018).

⁷ NEB. REV. STAT. § 86-465.