

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. 911-042.73
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:)
Sheridan County) Entered: January 14, 2020

BY THE COMMISSION:

On or about December 2, 2019, the Sheridan County ("Sheridan") public safety answering point ("PSAP") filed a request to use set-aside funds to purchase new call handling equipment from Solacom at a cost of \$83,176.85. In addition, Sheridan requests the use of set-aside funds to purchase one year of service from NebraskaLink at a cost of \$11,226.16, consisting of \$400.00 of non-recurring costs and \$902.18 of monthly recurring costs. The total cost for the call handling equipment and first year service from NebraskaLink is \$94,479.03.

These purchases will permit Sheridan to replace obsolete equipment and join the regional network of PSAPs known as the North Central Region, which also includes the PSAPs in Brown County, Rock County and Cherry County (which also provides service to Keya Paha County), plus the Boyd-Holt PSAP, which serves Boyd and Holt Counties.¹

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 Act² (the "Act"), the Commission is responsible for allocating funding to PSAPs from the 911 Service System Fund (the "Fund").³ The Fund consists primarily of surcharges collected by wireless carriers from wireless service

¹ See, *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: Cherry County*, App. No. 911-042.52, ORDER APPROVING FUNDING (Apr. 9, 2019).

² Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1001 to 86-1029.03.

³ Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1025(5).

customers.⁴ 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.⁵

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.⁶ Set-aside funds may also be used to pay the first year of multi-year maintenance, service, support or licensing agreements.⁷ 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.⁸

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 meet the statutory requirement for funding eligibility 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.⁹ In addition, all such costs will be incurred by Sheridan to join the North Central Region and, therefore, may be paid from set-aside funds, without applying the wireless/wireline ratio.

⁴ See, e.g., Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-456, 86-456.01, 86-457, 86-459, 86-466, 86-904 and 86-1028.

⁵ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1025(5)(c).

⁶ *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).

⁷ 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).

⁸ 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).

⁹ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1025(c).

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Based on the foregoing, the Commission finds that use of set-aside funds by Sheridan should be approved in an amount up to \$94,479.03.

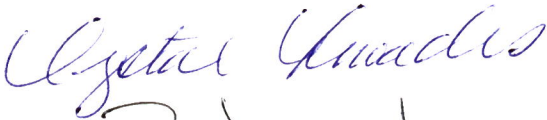
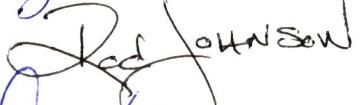

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that funding for Sheridan County is hereby approved in the amount of up to \$94,479.03.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 14th day of January, 2020.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:



Chair

ATTEST:

Executive Director