

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska        ) Application No. 911-042.57  
Public Service Commission, on        )  
its own motion, seeking to        )  
administer funding for public        )  
safety answering points for        ) ORDER APPROVING FUNDING  
the implementation and        )  
provision of Enhanced Wireless        )  
911 service: City of Alliance.        )  
  ) Entered: March 3, 2020

BY THE COMMISSION:

On or about January 28, 2020, the City of Alliance public safety answering point ("Alliance PSAP"), which serves Box Butte County, filed a request to use set aside funds to hire GeoComm to develop geographic information system ("GIS") site/structure address point data for Box Butte County at a cost of \$17,140.00.<sup>1</sup>

The Alliance PSAP also requested to use set-aside funds to pay GeoComm \$2,670.00 for an interface between the PSAP's Zuercher computer aided dispatch ("CAD") system and its GeoComm standard dispatch system. This amount includes \$1,778.00 for first year licensing in addition to one time charges for installation and project management. The combined eligible cost of the address point data development and CAD interface is \$19,810.00. These purchases are being made so that the Alliance PSAP can join the regional network of PSAPs known as the South Central Region.

The Wireless Enhanced 911 Advisory Board considered the Alliance PSAP funding request at its February 12, 2020 meeting and recommended that the request be approved.

D I S C U S S I O N

Pursuant to the 911 Service System Act<sup>2</sup> (the "Act"), the Commission is responsible for allocating funding to PSAPs from the 911 Service System Fund (the "Fund").<sup>3</sup> The Fund consists primarily of surcharges collected by wireless carriers from wireless service customers.<sup>4</sup> The Act provides that money in the fund may be used to pay for costs that are determined by the Public Service Commission

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<sup>1</sup> This amount equates to a cost of \$1.21 per point.

<sup>2</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1001 to 86-1029.03.

<sup>3</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1025(5).

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

("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>5</sup> PSAP costs for the purchase and maintenance of software, including GIS systems and data, are also eligible for funding.<sup>6</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>7</sup> Set-aside funds may also be used to pay the first year of multi-year maintenance, service, support or licensing agreements.<sup>8</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>9</sup>

The development of GIS site/structure address point data is an eligible expense which may be paid entirely from a PSAP's set aside funds.<sup>10</sup> Eligible costs incurred by PSAPs to join a regional PSAP network also may be paid entirely from set-aside funds.<sup>11</sup>

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

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

<sup>7</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).

<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: City of North Platte*, Application No. 911-042.18 ORDER APPROVING FUNDING (August 29, 2017).

<sup>9</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>10</sup> *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: Douglas County*, Application No. 911-042.49, ORDER APPROVING REQUEST, IN PART (Dec. 18, 2012).

<sup>11</sup> *In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer funding for public safety answering points for the*



The Commission's 911 GIS Data Policy<sup>12</sup> provides that GIS site/structure address point data must meet the following requirements in order to be eligible for funding:

1. The Site/Structure Address Points layer is created alongside the creation or update of the related Street Centerline Layer. This will insure accuracy and save time and money.

2. Each proposal submitted by a vendor for the creation or update of the Site/Structure Address Points layer must include a detailed breakdown of the cost per address point.

3. The Site/Structure Address Points layer must comply with the Nebraska Information Technology Commission ("NITC") standard for GIS data that consists of address points.<sup>13</sup>

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

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 pursuant to the Act as costs have been incurred or will be incurred for the acquisition, installation, maintenance, and operation of telecommunications equipment and services required for the provision of 911 service.

Based upon the above, the Commission finds that the Alliance PSAP's funding request should be approved in an amount not to exceed **\$19,810.00, provided, however,** that pursuant to the GIS Policy, payment to the vendor for the GIS site/structure address point data shall not be made until written confirmation by the Commission's GIS Specialist that the data delivered by the vendor meets applicable NITC standards, including NITC 3-206 Address Standard.<sup>14</sup>

#### O R D E R

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*implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service: Chase County, Application No. 911-042.50, ORDER APPROVING FUNDING (Oct. 16, 2018).*

<sup>12</sup> *In the Matter of the Commission, on its own motion, seeking to investigate and review funding, standards and policies relating to Geographic Information Systems data necessary for the provision of Next Generation 911 service, Application No. 911-061/PI-192, ORDER ADOPTING STANDARDS (Oct. 17, 2017).*

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*, Appendix A.

<sup>14</sup> <http://nitc.nebraska.gov/standards/3-206.pdf>.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the funding request for the Alliance PSAP is hereby approved in an amount not to exceed \$19,810.00, **provided, however,** that pursuant to the GIS Policy, payment shall not be made to the vendor until written confirmation by the Commission's GIS Specialist that the data delivered by the vendor meets applicable NITC standards, including NITC 3-206 Address Standard.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2020.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Crystal Knowles*  
*Paul Johnson*  
*Don Williams*  
*Tim Schram*

*Mary Riehl*  
Chair

ATTEST:

*Theresa S. S.*  
Executive Director