

SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. 911-042.63
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: Scotts Bluff
County Entered: August 25, 2020

BY THE COMMISSION:

On or about August 3, 2020, the Scotts Bluff County ("Scotts Bluff") public safety answering point ("PSAP") filed a request to use set-aside funds toward the purchase of VIPER call handling equipment from CenturyLink Business, which will enable the Scotts Bluff PSAP to join the South Central Region of PSAPs. The total amount of the Scotts Bluff request is \$112,545.09, which represents \$96,863.41 for the cost of the equipment and \$15,681.68 for the first year of maintenance and service.

The Wireless Enhanced 911 Advisory Board considered the funding request at its August 19, 2020, meeting and recommended that 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 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 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

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).

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to seventy-five percent (75%) of their annual funding allocation for future purchases of equipment and software.⁵

On October 16, 2018, the Commission issued an Order determining that eligible costs incurred by PSAPs to join a region, including equipment costs and the first year of multi-year maintenance, support, service or licensing agreements, 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 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 that have been incurred or will be incurred for the acquisition of new equipment and related maintenance and service fees, and/or the acquisition, installation, maintenance, and operation of telecommunications equipment and telecommunications service required for the provision of 911 service.⁷ Moreover, all such costs will be incurred by Scotts Bluff County in order to join the South Central 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 Scotts Bluff County should be approved in an amount up to **\$112,545.09**.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that funding for Scotts Bluff County is hereby approved as provided herein in an amount up to **\$112,545.09**.

⁵ *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).*

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 (October 16, 2018).*

⁷ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1025(5)(c).

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ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 25th day of August, 2020.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Rock Johnson
Crystal Hender
Tim Schram
Dee Watson

Mary Kadden
Chair

ATTEST:

Michael S. Hyatt
Executive Director