

# SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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## 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     ) ORDER APPROVING FUNDING  
safety answering points for the     )  
implementation and provision of     )  
Enhanced Wireless 911 service:     ) Entered: September 1, 2020  
Colfax County

### BY THE COMMISSION:

On or about June 24, 2020, the Colfax County ("Colfax County") public safety answering point ("PSAP") filed a request to use set-aside funds to purchase new call handling equipment and connectivity from CenturyLink in order to become one of two host locations in a new regional network of PSAPs to be established with Burt, Cuming and Dodge Counties. The total amount of eligible costs supported by documentation provided with the funding request, including the first year of multi-year maintenance, support, service or license agreements, is \$114,579.04.

On or about August 11, 2020, Colfax County submitted a second funding request to use \$2,047.00 of set-aside funds to purchase GIS data aggregation and edge matching services from GeoComm in order to integrate the Colfax County data with the rest of the new Region's GIS data.

Because both funding requests seek costs to be incurred to join the new PSAP Region, the requests have been combined for purposes considering funding approval. The Wireless Enhanced 911 Advisory Board considered both Colfax County funding requests at its August 19, 2020 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 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> 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,

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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).

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maintenance, and operation of telecommunications equipment and services required for the provision of 911 service.<sup>3</sup>

PSAPs are permitted to set aside up to seventy-five percent (75%) of their annual funding allocation for future purchases of equipment and software.<sup>4</sup> Set aside funds may also be used to pay the first year of multi-year maintenance, service, support or licensing agreements.<sup>5</sup> However, set aside funds may not be used to pay future years of multi-year maintenance, service, support or licensing agreements.

PSAP expenses that are incurred in order to join a regional network of PSAPs are not subject to the wireless/wireline ratio, and may be fully paid using set-aside funds.<sup>6</sup>

Based upon the requests 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 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.<sup>7</sup> In addition, the funding requested for GIS data services are eligible for funding.<sup>8</sup> Moreover, all funding requested by Colfax County is for the purpose

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

<sup>4</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>5</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>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: Hitchcock County*, Application No. 911-042.17 ORDER APPROVING FUNDING (May 14, 2019).

<sup>7</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1025(5) (c).

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

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of joining a new PSAP Region and are eligible to be paid from set aside funds, without applying the wireless/wireline ratio.

Pursuant to the foregoing, the amount eligible for funding using set-aside funds with respect to call handling equipment and the first year of service is \$114,579.04. In addition, the amount eligible for funding using set-aside funds with respect to GIS data aggregation and edge matching services is \$2,047.00. Therefore, the total amount eligible for funding hereunder using set-aside funds is \$116,626.04.

Based upon the above, the Commission finds that use of set-aside funding by Colfax County should be approved in an amount up to **\$116,626.04**.





### O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that funding for Colfax County is hereby approved in the amount of up to **\$116,626.04**.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2020.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

  
Chair

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director