

SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. 911-042.68
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: October 20, 2020
Butler County

BY THE COMMISSION:

On or about July 10, 2020, the Public Safety Answering Point ("PSAP") operated by Butler County filed a request to use set-aside funds for the purchase of a Computer Assisted Dispatch ("CAD") system from Zuercher Technologies. The total cost of the CAD system is \$113,864.00, but the Butler County funding request states that they wish to apply set-aside funds only to the third and final payment for purchase of the CAD system, the amount of which is \$22,772.80. Butler County is also requesting to use set-aside funds to purchase computer equipment for the CAD system from Applied Connective Technologies, at a cost of \$2,650.00. The combined cost of the CAD system and computer equipment is \$25,422.80. In addition, Butler County is requesting the use of set-aside funds to pay annual maintenance costs on the CAD system in the amount of \$16,173.00.

The purchase of the CAD system and computer equipment is subject to the wireless/wireline ratio. The wireless/wireline ratio for Butler for the 2020-2021 funding year is 78%.

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

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

² Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1025(5).

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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

PSAPs can set aside up to seventy-five percent (75%) of their annual funding allocation for future purchases of equipment and software.⁵ PSAP costs for CAD systems are eligible for funding pursuant to Docket No. 911-019/PI-118.⁶ After applying Butler County's wireless/wireline ratio of 78 percent, the amount of set-aside funds that may be used for the purchase of the CAD system and computer equipment is \$19,829.78.

As stated above, Butler County also requested the use of set-aside funds to pay for \$16,173.00 of maintenance costs for the CAD system. However, the documentation Butler County provided with its funding request shows that such maintenance costs apply beginning with the second year of operation. Set-aside funds may be used to pay for only the first year of multi-year maintenance, support, service or licensing costs. After the first year, maintenance, support, licensing, extended warranties and the like must be paid from a PSAP's annually allocated funds or other sources.⁷ Therefore, the requested \$16,173.00 of year two maintenance costs are not eligible to be paid from set-aside funds.

Based upon the above, the Commission finds that use of set-aside funding by Butler should be approved in an amount up to \$19,829.78.

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, 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 *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: Seward County*, Application No. 911-042.28, ORDER APPROVING FUNDING (June 26, 2018).

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: York County*, Application No. 911-042.56 ORDER APPROVING FUNDING (Mar. 5, 2019).

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O R D E R

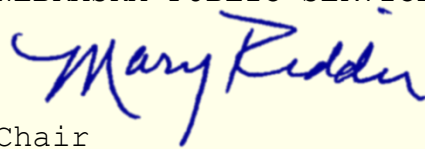
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the use of set-aside funds by the Butler County PSAP is hereby approved as set forth herein, in an amount up to **\$19,829.78.**

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 20th day of October, 2020.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:


Chair

ATTEST:


Executive Director