

SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. 911-042.31
Public Service Commission, on)
its own motion, seeking to)
administer funding for public) ORDER AMENDING FUNDING
safety answering points for the)
implementation and provision of)
Enhanced Wireless 911 service:) Entered: December 15, 2020
Thurston County

BY THE COMMISSION:

On September 12, 2017, the Public Service Commission (Commission) entered an order in this docket authorizing the Thurston County public safety answering point ("PSAP") to use its entire set-aside fund balance of \$82,129.44 to purchase new West Viper call handling equipment from CenturyLink.¹ However, the Thurston County project ran into delays and revisions, with the result that Thurston County has decided instead to purchase Emergency CallWorks call handling equipment from Motorola Solutions.

Consequently, on September 25, 2020, the Thurston County PSAP requested that the September 17, 2020 Order be amended to authorize the use of \$82,129.44 of set aside funds to pay for Emergency CallWorks call handling equipment from Motorola Solutions, rather than West Viper calling handling equipment from CenturyLink.

The Wireless Enhanced 911 Advisory Board considered Thurston County's request at its October 21, 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 Act² (the "Act"), the Commission is responsible for allocating funding to PSAPs from the 911 Service System Fund (the "Fund").³ The Fund consists of surcharges collected by wireless carriers from wireless service

¹ *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: Thurston County*, Application No. 911-042.31, ORDER APPROVING FUNDING (Sept. 12, 2017).

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

³ Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1025(5).

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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

In our September 12, 2017 Order, the Commission determined that the costs documented by the Thurston County PSAP met the statutory requirement for funding eligibility as costs 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.⁷ As stated above, the only changes to the funding request are in the make and vendor of the call handling equipment to be purchased. The requested amount of \$82,129.44 remains less than the total amount of documented eligible costs after accounting for the wireless/wireline ratio.

Based upon the above, the Commission finds that use of set-aside funding by Thurston County to pay for Emergency CallWorks call handling equipment from Motorola Solutions should be approved an amount not to exceed **\$82,129.44**.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the Order issued in this docket on September 12, 2017, is hereby amended to permit the use of set-aside funding in an amount not to exceed **\$82,129.44** to pay for Emergency CallWorks call handling equipment from Motorola Solutions.

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 Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1025(c).

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ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 15th day of December, 2020.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Rock Johnson
Crystal Hender
Tim Schram
Dee Watson

Mary Kadden
Chair

ATTEST:

Michael S. Hyatt
Executive Director