

# SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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## BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska ) Application No. 911-042.01  
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: May 11, 2021  
Nemaha County

BY THE COMMISSION:

On or about March 12, 2021, the Nemaha County Public Safety Answering Point ("PSAP") filed a request to use set aside funds for the purchase of a Computer Assisted Dispatch ("CAD") system from CentralSquare Technologies. Although Nemaha County is purchasing an entire suite of products from CentralSquare including modules for records management, field reporting, and jail management, only the CAD system is eligible for funding from the 911 Service System Fund.<sup>1</sup>

Based on the funding request filed with the Commission, the total amount of eligible costs for Nemaha County's purchase of the CAD system is \$114,529.60. The purchase of a CAD system is an eligible cost that supports both wireless and landline 911 service subject to the wireless/wireline ratio.<sup>2</sup> The Nemaha County PSAP's wireless/wireline ratio for the current funding year is 83 percent. Therefore, the maximum amount of this project payable from set-aside funds is \$95,059.57.

The Enhanced Wireless 911 Advisory Board considered the request at its March 31, 2021, 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 Act<sup>3</sup> (the "Act"), the Commission is responsible for allocating funding to PSAPs from the

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<sup>1</sup> See 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 (February 23, 2010).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1001 to 86-1029.03.

## SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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Application No. 911-042.01

Page 2

911 Service System Fund (the "Fund").<sup>4</sup> The Fund consists of surcharges collected by wireless carriers from wireless service customers.<sup>5</sup> 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.<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>

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 meet 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.<sup>10</sup> As a result, Commission finds that use of set-aside funding by Nemaha County should be approved in an amount up to **\$95,059.57**.

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<sup>4</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1025(5).

<sup>5</sup> See, e.g., Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-456, 86-456.01, 86-457, 86-459, 86-466, 86-904 and 86-1028.

<sup>6</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1025(5)(c).

<sup>7</sup> *Supra*, note 1.

<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> Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1025(c).

# SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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Application No. 911-042.01

Page 3

## O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the use of set-aside funds by Nemaha County is hereby approved in an amount up to **\$95,059.57**.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Rod Johnson*  
*Crystal Brader*  
*Mary Kidden*  
*Tim Schram*

*Don Wooten*  
Chair

ATTEST:

*Michael S. Hyatt*  
Executive Director