

SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,) Application No. 911-060
on its own motion, seeking to)
investigate and determine)
whether additional funds from)
the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund) ORDER EXTENDING FUNDING
should be made available to)
public safety answering points)
for costs to implement text to) Entered: November 2, 2021
911 solutions.)
)
Keith County) Docket No. 911-060.25
)
Furnas County) Docket No. 911-060.42
)
Howard County) Docket No. 911-060.55

BY THE COMMISSION:

On May 6, 2014, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) opened this docket on its own motion to investigate and determine whether additional funds from the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund¹ should be made available to public safety answering points (PSAPs) for costs to implement text to 911 solutions.²

On November 4, 2014, the Commission issued an Order to provide PSAP funding for text to 911 services outside the cost model on an interim basis ("Progression Order No. 3").³ Under Progression Order No. 3, Commission funding approval of text to 911 related service contracts was limited to no more than three years.

On November 19, 2018, the Commission issued an Order indefinitely extending interim funding for PSAP text-to-911 costs

¹ The Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund has been merged into the 911 Service System Fund pursuant to LB 993 [2018].

² In the Matter of the Commission, on its own motion, seeking to investigate and determine whether additional funds from the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund should be made available to public safety answering points for costs to implement text to 911 solutions, Application No. 911-060/PI-191, ORDER OPENING DOCKET SEEKING COMMENT AND SCHEDULING HEARING (May 6, 2014).

³ In the Matter of the Commission, on its own motion, seeking to investigate and determine whether additional funds from the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund should be made available to public safety answering points for costs to implement text to 911 solutions, Application No. 911-060/PI-191, PROGRESSION ORDER NO. 3 (Nov. 4, 2014).

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("Progression Order No. 4").⁴ Pursuant to Progression Order No. 4, PSAPs previously approved for text-to-911 funding may request an extension of funding for additional periods of up to three years each.

The PSAPs located in Keith County, Furnas County, and Howard County have each been previously approved for text-to-911 funding by Commission Order after recommendation by the Enhanced Wireless 911 Advisory Board. In addition, each of the PSAPs has reached, or soon will reach, the initial three-year funding milestone and has submitted an application seeking an extension of their text-to-911 funding.

O P I N I O N S A N D F I N D I N G S

Under the 911 Service System Act⁵, the 911 Service System Fund may be used to pay for eligible costs incurred by PSAPs to provide 911 Service as determined by the Commission.⁶ The Act defines "911 Service" to mean the receiving and processing of "911 Calls," including text messages directed to a PSAP.⁷ Text messaging is also a crucial and convenient method for the deaf and hard of hearing community to access 911 services.⁸

The Commission finds that the interim text-to-911 funding previously approved for each of above-referenced PSAPs should be extended until the earlier of (i) the expiration of three years from the date of this Order or (ii) the date on which such PSAP transitions to the new funding model applicable to PSAPs operating in the Next-Generation 911 environment.⁹ The maximum amount of annual funding to be provided with respect to each PSAP is set forth on Attachment I to this Order.

⁴ In the Matter of the Commission, on its own motion, seeking to investigate and determine whether additional funds from the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund should be made available to public safety answering points for costs to implement text to 911 solutions, Application No. 911-060/PI-191, PROGRESSION ORDER NO. 4 (Nov. 19, 2018).

⁵ Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1001 to 86-1029.03.

⁶ Neb. Rev. Stat. §86-1028(3).

⁷ Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1017 & 86-1018.

⁸ *Supra*, Note 4.

⁹ *In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, to consider recommendations of the Service System Advisory Committee for creation of a new funding system for Next Generation 911*, App. No. 911-073/PI-232, ORDER ADOPTING FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS (Nov. 17, 2020).

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O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the opinions and findings herein be, and they are hereby, adopted.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 2nd day of November, 2021.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Rod Johnson
Crystal Brander
Mary Kidden
Tim Schram

Don Watson
Chair

ATTEST:

Sharice Knutson
Deputy Director

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ATTACHMENT I

Location	Annual Funding
Keith County	\$1,500.00
Furnas County	\$1,500.00
Howard County	\$1,500.00
Total:	\$4,500.00