

SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. 911-042.19
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: December 7, 2021
Saline County

BY THE COMMISSION:

On or about August 12, 2021, the Saline County public safety answering point ("PSAP") filed a request seeking approval to use set-aside funds to purchase new VESTA 911 call handling equipment from Windstream Enterprise ("Windstream") for use in the PSAP backup center, including four years of support.

The total cost of the foregoing items is \$19,276.33; however, this amount includes \$5,400.00 for prepaid support during years two through four, which is not eligible to be purchased with set-aside funds. Set-aside funds may be used to pay for only the first year of multi-year maintenance, service, extended warranty, support or licensing agreements.¹ Thereafter, the cost of such agreements must be paid from sources other than set-aside funds, such as a PSAP's annual funding allocation.² As a result, the total cost available for funding using set-aside funds is \$13,876.33.

Such costs are shared costs subject to the wireless/wireline ratio.³ The wireless/wireline ratio for Saline County for the

¹ 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*, App. No. 911-042.18, ORDER APPROVING FUNDING (Aug. 29, 2017).

² 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: Boone County*, App. No. 911-042.44, ORDER OPENING DOCKET (Jan. 8, 2019).

³ Saline County is already a member of the Southeast Region; therefore, the requested costs are not being incurred to join a region and are not eligible for 100 percent via set-aside funds. 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*, App. No. 911-042.56, ORDER APPROVING FUNDING (Mar. 5, 2019).

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2021-2022 funding year is 92 percent. Therefore, the maximum amount of set-aside funds that Saline County may apply to the cost of the items to be purchased is 92 percent of \$13,876.33, which is \$12,766.22.

The Wireless Enhanced 911 Advisory Board considered the request at its October 18, 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 Act⁴ (the "Act"), the Commission is responsible for allocating funding to PSAPs from the 911 Service System Fund (the "Fund").⁵ The Fund consists of enhanced wireless 911 surcharges collected by wireless carriers from wireless service customers.⁶ The Act provides that money in the fund may be used to pay 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.⁷

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.⁸ A PSAP's use of set-aside funds is subject to the wireless/wireline ratio, and the limitations stated above with respect to future years of multi-year maintenance, service, extended warranty, support, or licensing agreements.

Based upon the above, the Commission finds that use of set-aside funding by Saline County should be approved in an amount not to exceed **\$12,766.22**.

⁴ Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1001 to 86-1029.03.

⁵ Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1025(5).

⁶ See, e.g., Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-456, 86-456.01, 86-457, 86-459, 86-466, 86-904 and 86-1028.

⁷ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1025(5)(c).

⁸ *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*, App. No. 911-019/PI-118, FINAL ORDER ADOPTING MODEL AND APPLICATION PROCESS (Feb. 23, 2010).

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O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that funding for Saline County is hereby approved in an amount up to **\$12,766.22**.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 7th day of December 2021.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Rod Johnson
Cystal Brander
Mary Kiddy
Tim Schram

Don Watson
Chair

ATTEST:

Sharice Knutson
Deputy Director