BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska Application No. 911-019/PI-118 Public Service Commission, on its own motion, to implement PROGRESSION ORDER NO. 6 provisions of LB 1222 [2006] and to establish a permanent funding mechanism for wireless Entered: May 9, 2017 enhanced 911 service. In the Matter of the Nebraska Application No. 911-042.38 Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer funding for public ORDER MODIFYING FUNDING safety answering points for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service: Washington County. Entered: May 9, 2017

BY THE COMMISSION:

On February 23, 2010, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) entered an order pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-465(1)(e) adopting a permanent funding mechanism and process to provide funding for the implementation and provision of enhanced 911 service.

On April 6, 2010, the Commission entered an order expanding eligible expenses under the permanent funding mechanism to include costs incurred by the Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy County PSAPs for in-house personnel specifically trained and responsible for the maintenance of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data used for the provision of enhanced 911 service. Pursuant to the Order, the Commission determined that these three PSAPs presented unique circumstances. No other PSAPs were included in the permission granted in such Order.

On October 3, 2016, the Washington County PSAP submitted a funding request to the Enhanced Wireless 911 Advisory Board, seeking permission to use up to \$3,105.00 of its annual funding allocation under the Wireless 911 Support Allocation Model (911-SAM) to hire an in-house "contract employee" to maintain the PSAP's GIS data. Included with such funding request was a statement of the qualifications of the proposed contract employee, Calvin C. Poulsen. Based on a review by Commission staff, Mr. Poulsen is highly qualified as a provider of GIS data services.

On May 1, 2017, the Commission held a workshop for the purpose of receiving comment on various issues relating to GIS

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data management in the context of enhanced 911 and next-generation 911 services. One of the issues discussed at the workshop was whether funding for in-house GIS personnel should be made available to all PSAPs, in addition to Douglas, Lancaster and Sarpy Counties.

After considering comments received at the workshop and reviewing Washington County's funding application, the Commission has concluded that additional counties should be permitted to use the annual funding allocated under the 911-SAM to pay the costs of in-house GIS personnel, provided that such personnel are properly qualified. Because there is no dispute over the qualifications of Mr. Poulson, Washington County's application for funding shall be immediately granted. In addition, Commission staff shall develop guidelines for the minimum qualifications to be required for in-house GIS personnel in connection with future such requests.

Notwithstanding any changes made pursuant to this Order, funds expended by a PSAP for GIS related costs may only be spent on those costs that directly relate to the provision of enhanced 911 and next-generation 911 services. The maintenance of GIS data for the provision of such 911 services is a shared cost and is subject to the wireless/wireline allocation.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the funding request of Washington County, to use annual funding allocated under the 911-SAM to pay the costs of inhouse GIS personnel, is hereby approved as set forth herein in the amount of up to \$3,105.00 for the current funding year. Any such funding for additional years should be included in future annual funding requests.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Washington County submit required documentation to justify all expenditures with approved funds no later than October 15, following the close of the funding year consistent with the terms of the order approving the permanent funding mechanism and process in Docket 911-019/PI-118 entered on February 23, 2010.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Commission staff shall develop guidelines for the minimum qualifications to be required for inhouse GIS personnel that are the subject of any future such funding requests.

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MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 9th day of May, 2017.

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

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Chairman

ATTEST:

Deputy Director

//s//Frank E. Landis
//s//Tim Schram