

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. 911-042.25
Public Service Commission, on)
its own motion, seeking to)
administer funding for public)
safety answering points for) ORDER APPROVING FUNDING
the implementation and)
provision of Enhanced Wireless)
911 service: Keith County)
) Entered: November 27, 2018.

BY THE COMMISSION:

On or about September 20, 2018, the Keith County ("Keith County") public safety answering point ("PSAP") filed a request to use set-aside funds to purchase new call handling equipment and connectivity from CenturyLink Business and GeoLynx Server software from GeoComm to enable Keith County to join the regional network of PSAPs known as the South Central Region. The total cost requested, including the first year of maintenance and service, is in the amount of \$148,334.73. However, the total amount supported by documentation provided with the request and after deducting some text-to-911 costs approved by the Commission under previous Orders¹ is in the amount of \$131,069.62.

On or about October 1, 2018, Keith County submitted a second funding request to use set-aside funds to pay for additional expenses necessary to join the South Central Region. The additional funding request was for the purpose of paying Keith County's share of joining the aggregated regional Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data hub previously approved for funding in the South Central Region (the "Data Hub"),² plus three years of

¹ 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: Keith County, Application No. 911-060.25, ORDER APPROVING APPLICATION (July 6, 2016); 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: Keith County, Application No. 911-060.25, ORDER TO AMEND (July 12, 2016).

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: Buffalo County, Application No. 911-042.10, ORDER APPROVING FUNDING (June 12, 2018).

annual maintenance and quality control/quality assurance services. According to the documentation provided, Keith County's cost to join the Data Hub is a one-time charge of \$736.00 and an annual maintenance cost of \$3,009.00.

Because both funding requests seek costs to be incurred to join the South Central Region, the requests have been combined for purposes considering funding approval. The Wireless Enhanced 911 Advisory Board considered the combined request at its October 29, 2018 meeting and recommended that the requested funding, be approved.

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

The Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Commission") adopted the permanent cost model to administer funding for public safety answering points for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service under Docket No. 911-019/PI-118.³

Pursuant to Order adopted by the Commission on October 16, 2018, eligible costs incurred by PSAPs to join a region, such as equipment costs and the first year of multi-year maintenance, support or service agreements, may be fully paid from monies in the 911 Service System Fund, including set aside funds, without applying the wireless/wireline ratio.⁴ However, subsequent PSAP expenses, such as future years of multi-year maintenance, support or service agreements, and equipment costs incurred after joining a region will remain subject to the wireless/wireline ratio.

Based upon the requests 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 are eligible for funding as costs that have

³ 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).

⁴ 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: Chase County, Application No. 911-042.50, ORDER APPROVING FUNDING (October 16, 2018).

been incurred or will be 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.⁵ In addition, the costs requested for the purchase and maintenance of software, including GIS data, are eligible for funding.⁶ Moreover, the all costs requested are to be incurred by Keith County to join the South Central Region and are eligible to be paid from set aside funds, without applying the wireless/wireline ratio.

Pursuant to the permanent funding mechanism, PSAPs are permitted to set aside up to seventy-five percent (75%) of their annual funding allocation for the future purchase of equipment and software.⁷ Set aside funds may also be used to pay the first year of multi-year maintenance or support agreements.⁸ However, set aside funds may not be used to pay future years of multi-year maintenance or support agreements. Any such future costs must be paid from a PSAP's annually allocated funds or other sources, and do not require prior approval of the Commission. Therefore, amounts necessary to pay future years of multi-year maintenance costs need not be approved pursuant to this Order.⁹

Pursuant to the foregoing, the amount eligible for funding using set-aside funds with respect to call handling equipment, connectivity and GeoLynx Server software is \$131,069.62. In addition, the amount eligible for funding using set-aside funds with respect to the Data Hub is \$736.00 for a one-time cost and \$3,009.00 for first year maintenance costs. Therefore, the total

⁵ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1025(c).

⁶ 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: Clay County Application No. 911-042.03, ORDER APPROVING FUNDING* (October 31, 2017).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ 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).

⁹ *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, Application No. 911-042, ORDER OPENING DOCKET* (March 30, 2010).

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amount eligible for funding hereunder using set-aside funds is \$134,814.62.

Based upon the above, the Commission finds that use of set-aside funding by Keith County should be approved in an amount up to **\$134,814.62.**

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that funding for Keith County is hereby approved in the amount of up to **\$134,814.62.**

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 27th day of November, 2018.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:



Chair

ATTEST:



Executive Director

