

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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 APPROVING FUNDING
safety answering points for the) REQUEST, IN PART
implementation and provision of)
Enhanced Wireless 911 service:)
Washington County.) Entered: May 8, 2012

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

On or about March 30, 2010, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) opened the above-mentioned docket, on its own motion, seeking to administer funding for public safety answering points for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service pursuant to the permanent funding mechanism approved under Docket No. 911-019/PI-118.

On April 3, 2012, Washington County filed an application to the Commission requesting funding for new equipment and software and one year of maintenance in the amount of \$83,838.61. Additionally, Washington County is requesting \$7,180.80 in costs for backroom networking equipment and the interface for its computer aided dispatch (CAD) system.

E V I D E N C E

Hearing was held on Washington County's request on May 2, 2012. Captain Philip Brazelton testified in support of the county's application. Docket No. 911-019/PI-118. Captain Brazelton stated that Washington County did not receive funding for replacement of their 911 system prior to the implementation of the permanent funding mechanism, but was instead able to implement Phase II service with an upgrade. However, the equipment in place is now reaching its end of life. Additionally, the chosen option will allow them to use a microwave link between their PSAP and Sarpy and Douglas County rather than a T-1 at a lower ongoing cost. The proposed equipment can be installed for half of the cost of other options. Washington County has set aside approximately \$25,000 in wireless enhanced 911 funds. The documentation submitted shows that of the total cost \$3,000.00 is attributable to CAD.

The Wireless Enhanced Advisory Board considered Washington County's request at its April 9, 2012 meeting and recommended that the Commission approve the request.

F I N D I N G S A N D C O N C L U S I O N 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. In adopting the permanent cost model, the Commission stated,

the Commission will continue to pay amounts for intertandem trunking, GIS data development, equipment costs which represent a first request for funding for that PSAP, and equipment and software maintenance contracts approved prior to the implementation of the 911-SAM.¹

Washington County did not make a request for full funding prior to the adoption of the permanent funding mechanism. Therefore, the Commission finds that Washington County shall receive the same benefit extended to other PSAPs prior to the adoption of the 911 SAM. 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 are eligible under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-465 as costs have been incurred or will be incurred for the purchase, installation, maintenance or operation of telecommunications equipment and telecommunications services required for the provision of enhanced wireless 911 service.

Of the total amount requested, \$3,000.00 is related to a CAD system which was not previously funded by the Commission at 100%. It has since been designated as eligible for funding but is subject to the wireless/wireline allocation factor as an expense between wireless and landline 911 services.

Based upon the above, the Commission finds that funding request for Washington County should be approved in the amount of **not to exceed \$89,670.00**. This amount represents 100% of the equipment costs with the exception of 45% of the \$3,000 costs attributable to the CAD system. Pursuant to the permanent funding mechanism, PSAPs are permitted to retain up to seventy-five

¹ *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, Docket No. 911-019/PI-118, Final Order Adopting Model and Application Process, pg. 4 (Feb. 23, 2010).*

percent (75%) of the amount allocated to that PSAP for the future purchase of equipment and software. Captain Brazelton stated that the county had retained approximately \$25,000 in wireless enhanced 911 funds. Washington County must first use any wireless enhanced 911 funds already retained toward the cost of the equipment. Additionally, Washington County must use funds other than wireless 911 funds to cover the remaining \$1,350.00 in costs associated with the CAD system. The remaining balance will be paid by the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund upon completion of the project and receipt of invoices and appropriate documentation.

Washington County may request that any amounts be paid directly to the vendor on behalf of the county.

If the Nebraska Legislature fails to appropriate or authorize the expenditure of sufficient funds to provide for the payment of costs from the Fund or, if a lawful order issued in or for any fiscal year reduces the funds appropriated or authorized in such amounts as to preclude making the payments from the Fund, the Commission will not be responsible for any costs not reimbursed by the Fund.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the funding request for Washington County is hereby approved in part as set forth herein in an amount **not to exceed \$89,670.00.**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Washington County must first use any wireless enhanced 911 funds already retained toward the cost of the equipment and that the Fund will pay the remaining balance upon invoice and appropriate documentation.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 8th day of May, 2012.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

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//s// Rod Johnson
//s// Frank Landis

Chairman



ATTEST:



Executive Director