

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. 911-042.64
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: Sarpy County)
) Entered: January 23, 2019

BY THE COMMISSION:

On or about December 12, 2018, the Sarpy County ("Sarpy County") public safety answering point ("PSAP") filed a request to use set-aside funds to purchase VIPER call handling equipment from CenturyLink Business and network switching equipment from ConvergeOne. The proposed equipment purchase will enable Sarpy County to join the regional network of PSAPs that includes Sarpy and Douglas Counties. The total cost of the requested equipment, including first year of maintenance and service, is in the amount of \$118,374.29.

The Wireless Enhanced 911 Advisory Board considered the combined request at its January 16, 2019 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

Pursuant to the 911 Service system Act¹ (the "Act"), the Commission is responsible for allocating funding to PSAPs from the 911 Service System Fund (the "Fund").² The Fund consists primarily of surcharges collected by wireless carriers from wireless service customers.³ The Act provides that money in the fund may be used to pay for costs that are determined by the Public Service Commission ("Commission") to be eligible for funding, including costs incurred by PSAPs for the acquisition, installation, maintenance, and operation of telecommunications equipment and services required for the provision of 911 service.⁴ The funding mechanism adopted by the Commission permits PSAPs to set aside up

¹ Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1001 to 86-1029.03.

² Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1025(5).

³ See, e.g., Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-456, 86-456.01, 86-457, 86-459, 86-466, 86-904 and 86-1028.

⁴ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1025(5)(c).

to seventy-five percent (75%) of their annual funding allocation for future purchases of equipment and software.⁵

On October 16, 2018, the Commission issued an Order determining that 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.⁶ However, future years of multi-year maintenance, support, service or licensing agreements remain subject to the wireless/wireline ratio and must be paid from sources other than set-aside funds, such as a PSAP's annual funding allocation.⁷

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 for funding as costs that have been incurred or will be incurred for the acquisition of new equipment and related maintenance and service fees, and/or the acquisition, installation, maintenance, and operation of telecommunications equipment and telecommunications service required for the provision of 911 service.⁸ Moreover, all such costs will be incurred by Sarpy County in order to join a region of PSAPs being established with Sarpy and Douglas Counties. Therefore, such costs are eligible to be paid entirely from set-aside funds, without applying the wireless/wireline ratio.

Based upon the above, the Commission finds that use of set-aside funds by Sarpy County should be approved in an amount up to **\$118,374.29**.

⁵ 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 (Feb. 23, 2010).

⁶ 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).

⁷ 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, Application No. 911-042.44, ORDER OPENING DOCKET (Jan. 8, 2019).

⁸ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1025(c).

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Application No. 911-042.64

Page 3

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that funding for Sarpy County is hereby approved in the amount of up to \$118,374.29.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 23rd day of January, 2019.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Crystal Goodrich
Don Wermers
Tim Schram

Mary Riddle

Chair

ATTEST:

Michael S. HSP

Executive Director