

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,    ) Application No. 911-060.71  
on its own motion, seeking to        )  
investigate and determine            )  
whether additional funds from         )  
the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund       ) ORDER APPROVING APPLICATION  
should be made available to         )  
public safety answering points       )  
for costs to implement text to       )  
911 solutions: Saunders County.      ) Entered: September 26, 2017

BY THE COMMISSION:

On May 6, 2014, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) entered an order 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 (PSAPs) for costs to implement text to 911 solutions.

On November 4, 2014, the Commission released Progression Order No. 3 in this docket, setting out the procedure to fund text to 911 outside the cost model for PSAPs ready to implement technology solutions on an interim basis. The staff proposal adopted set out the application process for PSAPs seeking interim funding for text to 911 solutions.

On September 21, 2017, the Saunders County PSAP ("Saunders") submitted an application in this docket requesting text to 911 funding. The Saunders application was submitted in conjunction with a parallel funding application from the City of Columbus PSAP<sup>1</sup> ("Columbus"). The combined purpose of the Saunders funding application and the Columbus funding request is to provide text-to-911 services to each of the PSAPs of Boone County, Butler County, City of Columbus, Merrick County, Nance County, Polk County, and Saunders County (together the "EC-911 PSAPs").

The application listed non-recurring equipment related costs of \$11,936.10 and monthly recurring connectivity and maintenance costs of \$953.33, resulting in a three year total cost of \$46,255.82.

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<sup>1</sup> 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: City of Columbus, ORDER APPROVING APPLICATION, Docket No. 911-060.22 (September 26, 2017).

The Enhanced Wireless 911 Advisory Board considered an earlier version of Saunders's funding request at its May 8, 2017 meeting and recommended that the Commission approve the request.<sup>2</sup>

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

According to Neb. Rev. Stat. 86-465(2), costs incurred by public safety answering points for the provision of enhanced wireless 911 service may be eligible for payment from the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund, according to standards and criteria established by the Commission.

Pursuant to the staff proposal adopted in Progression Order No. 3 in this docket, the Commission may approve funding requests for text to 911 technology solutions costs such as text control center contracts, staff training, trunks necessary for additional text traffic, other costs related to the provision of text to 911 services not attributed more generally to 911 emergency response services. Progression Order No. 3 further specified that the Commission intended to limit approval of text to 911 related service contracts to no more than three years. In addition, costs relating to the provision of text-to-911 services are funded entirely from the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund, and are not subject to the Wireless/Wireline Ratio.

The Commission finds the application submitted by Saunders contains eligible costs under the interim text to 911 funding orders. PSAPs must submit invoices for payment by the Commission or submit invoices with evidence of payment for reimbursement to the PSAP from the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund. In addition, in keeping with the purpose of the proposal, Saunders shall also provide evidence to the Commission demonstrating that text-to-911 services have been successfully provided to each of the EC-911 PSAPs.

# O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the text to 911 technology solution funding request submitted by Saunders be, and hereby is, approved in an amount not to exceed **\$11,936.10** in non-recurring costs and **\$953.33** in monthly recurring costs over a three year period.

<sup>2</sup> See *id.* The original version of the funding request was a filed on behalf of each of the EC-911 PSAPs by a representative of the Columbus PSAP.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Saunders County submit required documentation to justify all expenditures for payment or reimbursement from the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund. Such documentation shall include evidence demonstrating that text-to-911 services have been successfully provided to each of the PSAPs of Boone County, Butler County, City of Columbus, Merrick County, Nance County, Polk County, and Saunders County.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2017.

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Mary Redder*

*Crystal Knoder*

*Paul Johnson*

//s//Frank E. Landis

//s//Tim Schram

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

*Tim Schram*

Chairman

ATTEST:

*Phil R. 11-20*

Executive Director