

Kansas 911 COORDINATING COUNCIL

10-7-11

**Guidance on 911 Funds Usage:**

Senate Bill # 50 (KANSAS 911 ACT) reference:

Section 14(a). *“The proceeds of the 911 fees imposed pursuant to this act, .....shall be used only for necessary and reasonable costs incurred or to be incurred by PSAPs for: (1) Implementation of 911 services; (2) purchase of 911 equipment and upgrades; (3) maintenance and license fees for 911 equipment; (4) training of personnel; (5) monthly recurring charges billed by service suppliers; (6) installation, service establishment and nonrecurring start-up charges billed by the service supplier; (7) charges for capital improvements and equipment or other physical enhancements to the 911 system; or (8) the original acquisition and installation of road signs designed to aid in the delivery of emergency service.....”*

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**Guidance on Usage of 911 Funds by PSAPs by the 911 Coordinating Council:**

Generally, it is considered permissible to use 911 funds to buy **electronic** equipment, software, GIS technical support and data, technical support services, software and hardware maintenance, training, and telecommunications services that are directly related to a PSAP receiving, processing and transmitting a 911 call. The legislature has prohibited the use of 911 funds for buildings, chairs, tables, building renovation and repairs, and for mobile and portable radios which would include pagers. Use of 911 funds for the purchase of dispatch console equipment designed specifically for use in a PSAP for 911 and radio operations should be acceptable as are logging recorders, emergency generators, Uninterruptible Power Supply systems, Computer Aided Dispatch systems, and radio base stations used by a PSAP to support its operations.

Use of 911 funds for training that is directly related to the performance of 911 and dispatching duties in a PSAP is acceptable. If the training is part of a conference package presented by APCO or NENA that is related to “911 services”, generally, use of 911 funds to pay for registration fees and costs of attendance (meals, mileage and room) would be appropriate. If the training is clearly for non-PSAP related operations such as firearms certification, emergency vehicle operation or general supervisory training not related to PSAP operations, it will be considered an inappropriate use.

PSAPs are responsible for using 911 fees in accordance with the authorized uses in the Kansas 911 ACT. When in doubt as to whether a use of 911 funds is allowable, PSAPs are encouraged to consult appropriate legal counsel for guidance, and may also contact the 911 Coordinating Council for further information that can be used in making expenditure decisions.

**Future Strategies and Guidance For Usage of 911 Funds:**

The 911 Coordinating Council is charged by statute to develop strategies for future enhancements to the 911 system as well as to monitor the delivery of 911 services in the state. At its October 7, 2011 meeting, the 911 Coordinating Council began deliberations upon what future guidance it would offer to PSAPs concerning the usage of 911 funds and of 911 State Grant Funds.

Next Generation 911 (NG911) digital systems will significantly change in the not too distant future, the IP based networks, GIS data, and PSAP equipment will be needed to route and deliver 911 calls to PSAPs. NG911 calls will be more than digital voice services as it will also include data, images, video and automated information from vehicles. It will become increasingly more important to establish strategies to guide us all in our investment of public monies in providing 911 services.

The theme of the October 7, 2011 discussion by the Council was that it needs to establish the framework of a transition plan for PSAPs to implement NG911 services and to encourage local jurisdictions to explore multi-jurisdictional and regional partnerships that will allow for the cost-effective sharing and technical administration of expensive IP networks, GIS data services, and security services necessary to effectively operate a NG911 network. It is becoming apparent that individual jurisdictions of any size cannot afford to implement NG911 services independently plus doing so would defeat the purpose of having a robust 911 system that would allow PSAPs to readily exchange 911 calls and other public safety services.

During the next year when the NG911 Pilot Project funded with federal grant monies is implemented, the Council will be learning what technical, GIS and administrative support services will be effective in the development of NG911 services in Kansas. The lessons learned from that pilot project will be evaluated in formulating the most effective way to best meet the needs of multiple jurisdictions in transitioning to NG911 services.

In the interim period of time, the Council would encourage PSAPs to explore building partnerships with adjoining and regional PSAP jurisdictions with an eye to having future collaboration in shared network systems and services. The Council would also encourage PSAPs to develop plans for how to best use their 911 funds in transitioning to NG911 in the future so as to not invest in equipment and software that will not meet NENA and open technical standards required for NG911. A careful scrutiny of vendor claims for NG911 standards compliance and for being upgradeable to NG911 standards is always in order.

The Council is willing to be a resource to PSAPs wanting more information on exploring partnerships and upon planning for the future. It will be through working together and sharing information that we will all be successful in this exciting transition of providing a broader range of 911 services to our citizens in the future.

Walter Way, Chairman