

# Budget Unit Brief

## FY 2017



## Radio Communications Platform Lease

### Radio Communications Platform

Interoperability of communications addresses the need for prompt communication between law enforcement and first responders during natural disasters or responses to criminal activity. A statewide land mobile radio communications platform enables communication to occur between jurisdictions. The statewide radio platform will cost a total of \$62.1 million for infrastructure, towers, and maintenance for any city, county, or state public safety user. This platform will support day-to-day operations as well as emergency multi-agency, multi-jurisdiction operations.

### E911 Emergency Communications Fund and Surcharge Fund

The E911 Program was created under the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD)<sup>1</sup> during the 1988 Legislative Session. The law required each county to establish a joint E911 service board maintained by the county board of supervisors. Each board was responsible for developing a countywide E911 plan detailing the manner and cost for the implementation of an E911 system. The HSEMD reviewed and approved the E911 service plans for all 99 counties. Service plans included a description of the service area, a list of all public and private safety agencies (such as a private ambulance service) within the E911 service area, the number of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) within the service area, and the agency responsible for management and supervision of the E911 communication system. Funding for the service is provided by a surcharge on each telephone access line within the E911 service area. Telephone service providers remit the surcharge to the respective joint E911 service board on a calendar quarterly basis to the state. The E911 Program Manager deposits the revenue in the E911 Emergency Communications Fund. At the end of each quarter, funds that have not been expended are deposited in the E911 Surcharge Carryover Fund.

### Surcharge Revenue

Surcharge revenue is used for recurring and nonrecurring costs of the system. Nonrecurring costs include but are not limited to network equipment for the PSAPs, software, database, addressing, training, and other capital expenditures, including the purchase or lease of subscriber information from the local exchange service provider. Recurring costs include but are not limited to network access fees and other telephone charges, software, equipment, database management, and maintenance, including the purchase or lease of subscriber information from the local exchange service provider. (Iowa Code sections [34A.7A\(2\)\(f\)\(3\)](#) and [34A.7A\(2\)\(f\)\(3\)\(g\)](#)).

### Funding

The first payment of \$4.0 million for FY 2016 was appropriated from the E911 Surcharge Fund to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to pay for the lease costs associated with the statewide land mobile radio communications system that will interface with the Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications System radio platform.<sup>2</sup> The second payment of approximately \$4.4 million was allocated to DPS for FY 2017.<sup>3</sup> This platform will be under the joint purview of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Department of Transportation (DOT).

### Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [34A](#)

[605](#) Iowa Administrative Code chapter [10](#)

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#### More Information

HSEMD – E911: [homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/programs/e\\_911.html](http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/programs/e_911.html)

Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications Systems Board: [www.ISICSB.iowa.gov](http://www.ISICSB.iowa.gov)

Iowa General Assembly: [www.legis.iowa.gov](http://www.legis.iowa.gov)

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<sup>1</sup> The HSEMD has since been converted to a stand-alone department rather than a Division of the Department of Public Defense.

<sup>2</sup> [House File 651](#) (E911 Funding Act)

<sup>3</sup> [Senate File 2326](#) (E911 Funding Act)