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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

May 20, 2020



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### IOWA 911 COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL MEETING — MAY 2020

**Meeting.** The Iowa 911 Communications Council met telephonically on May 14, 2020.

**911 Program Financial Reports and Program Update.** Blake DeRouche, 911 Program Manager at the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, provided the Council with the following updates on the 911 Program and its current financial standing:

**GIS Grants Update.** In the second funding period of FY 2020 (January to June 2020), 79 counties have received Geographic Information System (GIS) funding for a total of \$510,000. In March 2020, 9 counties were granted funding for a total of \$54,000. In April 2020, 19 counties were granted funding for a total of \$114,000. Funding is contingent on verification that the applicant possesses 98.0% match rates with GIS and 95.0% match rates with Automatic Location Identifier (ALI). The total amount of funding granted for FY 2020 year-to-date is \$1.1 million. This is on track in comparison with total FY 2019, in which grant funding totaled \$1.1million.

Additionally, Mr. DeRouche stated that FY 2021 GIS grant funding benchmarks have been proposed. The required match rates are not expected to change from FY 2020.

**911 Council Travel, Public Education, and Training Fund.** Mr. DeRouche stated that as of May 14, 2020, the Council has approved a total of \$59,000 to be distributed from the 911 Council Travel, Public Education, and Training Fund. Approximately \$100,000 is allocated toward the Fund annually. The remaining Fund balance totals \$41,000. Approximately \$40,000 in already-granted training funds were returned to the Council due to the cancellations of numerous trainings as a result of the implications of COVID-19.

Additionally, the Council discussed updating internal rules regarding funding travel and education requests. Council Vice Chairman Rob Dehnert suggested updating current internal processes to reflect a 10.0% match program for funding. This process would require individual requestors to commit 10.0% of the funding request using their own funding, while the Council would match the remaining 90.0% of the funding request. A motion was made and the Council unanimously voted to accept the new funding requirement.

**Zetron Mission Critical Communications Solutions Contract Update.** Cody Brink, Zetron Area Sales Manager, discussed Zetron's work in updating the 113 existing Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in delivering the Next Generation 911 (NG911) solution to enhance public safety services across the State. The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management awarded Zetron an NG911 contract in December 2017. Zetron provides a call-taking system that offers computer-aided design (CAD), 911 mapping, and emergency medical dispatch software in implementing NG911 protocols and systems. Mr. Brink stated that Jones County deployed dispatch software on March 25, 2020, and Van Buren County on April 8, 2020. Mr. Brink also stated that Buchanan, Linn, Ringgold, and Winneshiek counties are currently in the process of receiving quotes to begin the deployment process.

**Statewide Interoperable Communications System (SWIC) Board Update.** Chris Maiers, SWIC Coordinator, provided an update on the Board's activities, stating that the Board is continuing to work with counties across the State to update existing PSAP equipment to improve emergency communication technology. Mr. Maiers stated that the SWIC Board has had to delay some training opportunities due to

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the implications of COVID-19. The Board is currently working on rescheduling test calls and providing some one-on-one training, as well as virtual learning opportunities.

**Cybersecurity Update.** Jim Lundsted of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Regional Coordinator, provided an update on recent cybersecurity issues, specifically those becoming more prevalent during COVID-19.

Mr. Lundsted stated that most training has been suspended due to the implications of COVID-19, but that the agency's goal is to be able to start providing training with a less "hands-on" approach beginning in July 2020. Mr. Lundsted emphasized that cybersecurity has increasingly become threatened due to COVID-19, in large part due to various conspiracy theories being spread on the Internet. It is recommended that individuals proceed with caution in providing any personal information to Internet sites that are unfamiliar and that passwords be created uniquely and updated often.

**Next Meeting.** The next Council meeting will be held on June 11, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. It remains to be determined whether the meeting will be held telephonically or in person.

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