FISCAL UPDATE Article

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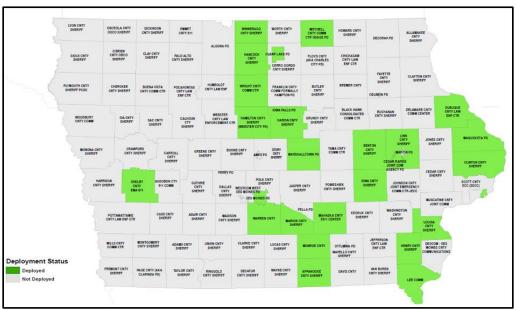
IOWA 911 COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL MEETING — NOVEMBER 2020

Meeting. The Iowa 911 Communications Council met virtually on November 12, 2020.

911 Program Financial Reports and Program Update. Blake DeRouchey, 911 program manager and State Administrator at the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), provided the Council with the following updates on the 911 Program and its current financial standing:

Wireline Migration Update. As of November 12, 2020, 38 Iowa Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) have successfully completed the wireline migration process that merges the existing wireline 911 network with the Next Generation 911 (NG911) network to produce a single 911 system. The merging process was implemented by 2018 Iowa Acts, <u>House File 2254</u> (911 Emergency Telephone Act), which required elimination of the wireline network and the creation of a shared service environment that the HSEMD would operate and maintain, with the benefit of automatic call rerouting in the case of an outage or maintenance. Specifically, the Act required the HSEMD to establish a virtual consolidation plan that would merge the legacy wireline 911 network with the NG911 network to allow Iowa PSAPs to share emergency communication services. The network merging commenced in spring 2020, and regional default routing by Selective Router conversations continue to be ongoing.

The chart below provides the most recent update on the automatic location identification (ALI) system deployment in the State of Iowa. The ALI system automatically relays a caller's address when a call is made to an emergency responder service.



State of Iowa ALI Deployment (By County)

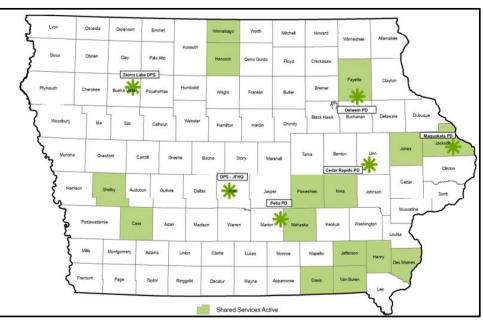
Source: Comtech Telecommunications Corporation

GIS Grants Update. In the first funding period of FY 2021 (July 2020 to January 2021), 42 counties have received Geographic Information System (GIS) funding for a total of \$282,000. In October 2020, 11 counties were granted funding for a total of \$66,000. Funding is contingent on verification that the applicant possesses 98.0% match rates with GIS and 98.0% match rates with ALI.

911 Council Travel, Public Education, and Training Fund. Mr. DeRouchey stated that as of November 12, 2020, the Council has approved a total of \$12,100 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 \$87,900. 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.

Presentation: 911 Strategic Plan. In August 2019, the State of Iowa took part in the National 911 Office Peer Assessment Program. The program consisted of a self-evaluation based on 98 criteria points to provide feedback on the diverse aspects of the 911 system. The self-evaluation assessment evaluated 83 guidelines and awarded each guideline with one of four categories of "does not meet," "minimum criteria," "advanced criteria," and "superior criteria" as a rating. In response to the individual ratings and the assessment as a whole, the State has created the 911 Strategic Plan for calendar years 2021 to 2025. A draft plan is available here. A public comment period is open through December 1. The final plan is expected to be published in January 2021.

Zetron Mission Critical Communications Solutions Contract Update. Lynne Warren, Zetron Project Manager, discussed Zetron's work in updating the 113 existing PSAPs in delivering the NG911 solution to enhance public safety services across the State. The HSEMD awarded Zetron an NG911 contract in December 2017 for shared 911 call handling equipment. Zetron also provides a call-taking system that offers computer-aided design (CAD), 911 mapping, and emergency medical dispatch software in implementing NG911 protocols and systems. Ms. Warren stated that Shelby County was scheduled to begin using the share system services on November 4, 2020, and Marion County is scheduled to do the same on December 9, 2020. It is planned that Boone County will start using shared system services in January 2021. The chart below displays the current number of active shared service locations in the State, by county.



Current Active Shared Service Locations (By County)

Source: Zetron

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 despite recent weather challenges. Virtual training continues to be offered and thus far has had good attendance levels and positive feedback.

Next Meeting. The next Council meeting will be held on December 10, 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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