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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

October 4, 2024



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### IOWA 911 COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL MEETING — SEPTEMBER 2024

**Meeting.** The 911 Communications Council met on September 12, 2024, at the Dallas County Human Services Campus in Adel. A recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

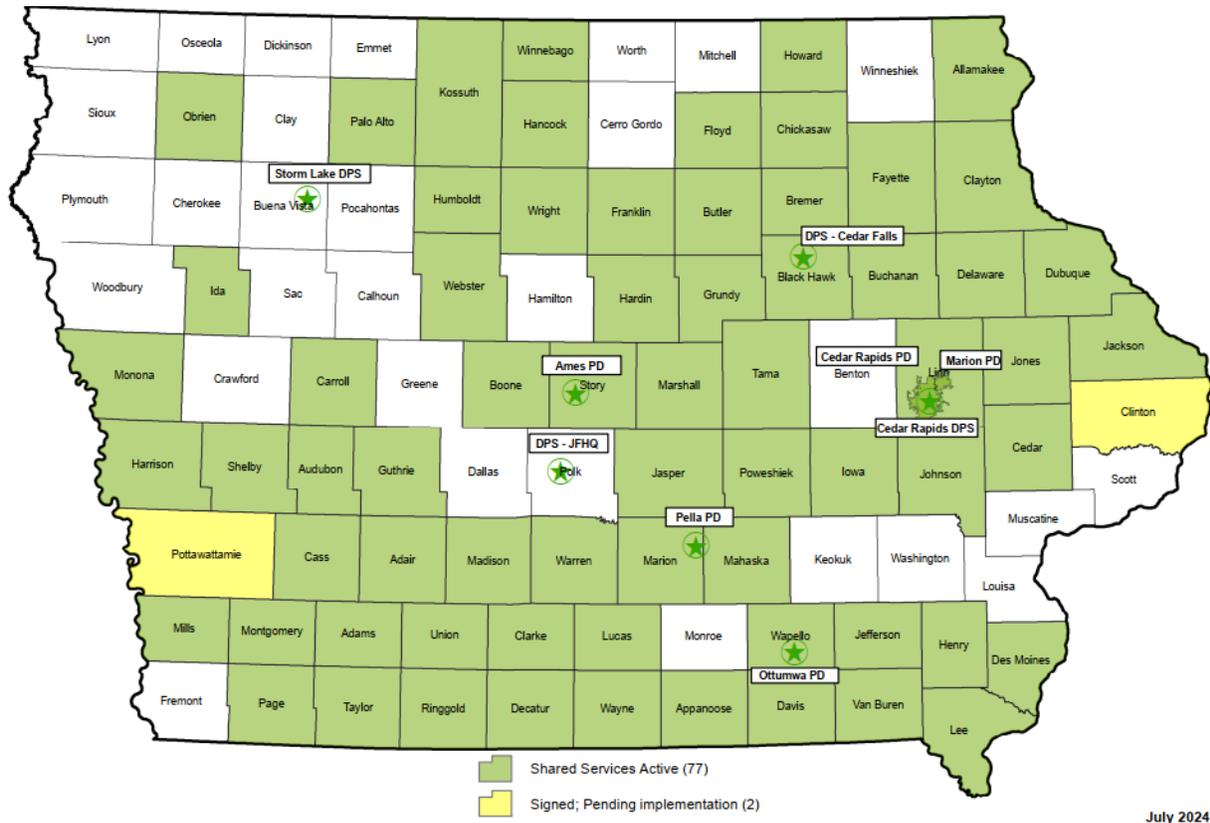
**911 Program Financial Report and Program Update.** Blake DeRouchey, 911 Program Manager and State Administrator of the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), provided the Council with the following updates:

- 911 public safety answering point (PSAP) leadership training is on November 19. Training event details are available on the HSEMD [website](#).
- Annual forms are due January 1.
- A Geographic Information System (GIS) informational call will be held on October 29.
- Individual emails are being sent to all PSAPs related to alternate or backup PSAPs.
- **GIS grants:** In FY 2024, counties received a total of \$1.3 million in GIS grant funding. Funding is contingent on verification that the applicant possesses 98.0% match rates with GIS and 98.0% match rates with the Automatic Location Identification (ALI) system. In August, all counties met these benchmarks.
- **Training Fund Requests:** The Council receives \$100,000 annually from the 911 Wireless Surcharge Fund to cover travel costs for the Council and to assist with public education and training costs for PSAPs. One training application was approved, which included approximately \$6,500 to Warren County for 911 Community Response to Active Shooter/Active Assailant training, \$8,900 to Cerro Gordo County for Domestic and Family Violence and Active Attacker training, and \$4,800 to the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) for fall conference speakers and training. As of September 2024, there is approximately \$90,000 remaining in the Fund. After payments for these applications, there will be approximately \$70,000 remaining in the Fund.
- The workgroup for 911 emergency telephone systems funding (under Iowa Code chapter [34A](#)) has concluded. Stakeholder engagement has begun, and findings have been presented to the Central and Western PSAP Supervisor Groups, the Iowa Communication Alliance, and the 911 Council. The next steps include submission of a policy proposal, additional stakeholder engagement, and the start of the legislative session.
- Over the past 10 years, the available State portion of the 911 Fund has decreased due to more money being passed through to local PSAPs for additional expenditures previously incurred by local PSAPs.
- Effort is being made to align the 911 financial model. The current model consists of two surcharges (wireline and wireless) and the proposed model consists of one surcharge. The proposed model includes:
  - An increase in the monthly surcharge to \$1.20 (from \$1.00).
  - Depositing all surcharge revenue with HSEMD.
  - A modification of current funding formula, which provides an additional \$6.6 million to HSEMD and \$1.2 million to local 911 service boards.
  - The implementation of Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) routers.
  - A study on the concept of managed services.
- Cost recovery was discussed, including the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Report and Order 21-479, Iowa Code section [34A.7A](#), and the wireline surcharge.
- The implementation of SIP routers was discussed, including the Lumen outage, Iowa Communications Network (ICN) proposal, and additional costs funded by HSEMD.

**Shared Services Update:** The HSEMD awarded Zetron Next-Generation 911 (NG911) contracts in December 2017 and July 2022 for shared 911 call-handling equipment. Zetron also provides a call-taking system that offers computer-aided dispatch (CAD), 911 mapping, and emergency medical dispatch software in implementing NG911 protocols and systems. A shared service location in Pottawattamie County went live on September 25, 2024.

Figure 1 displays the current active shared services locations in the state by county.

Figure 1 — Current Active Shared Services Locations (by County)



**Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS) Board Update.** The Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) reported on several items related to technical assistance (TA) requests.

**Emergency Communications Coordinator Report.** Chris Maiers, Emergency Communications Coordinator of the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), reported on several items, including National Preparedness Month, Russian military cyber actors, best practices for event logs and threat detection, Priority Telecommunications Service (PTS), and regional news.

**Next Meeting.** The next Council meeting will be held on October 10, 2024, at the Dallas County Human Services Campus in Adel.

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