
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

October 13, 2025



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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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IOWA 911 COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL MEETING — OCTOBER 2025

Meeting. The 911 Communications Council met on October 9, 2025, at the Dallas County Human Services Campus in Adel. A recording of the meeting is available on the [Iowa 911 Communications Council channel on YouTube](#).

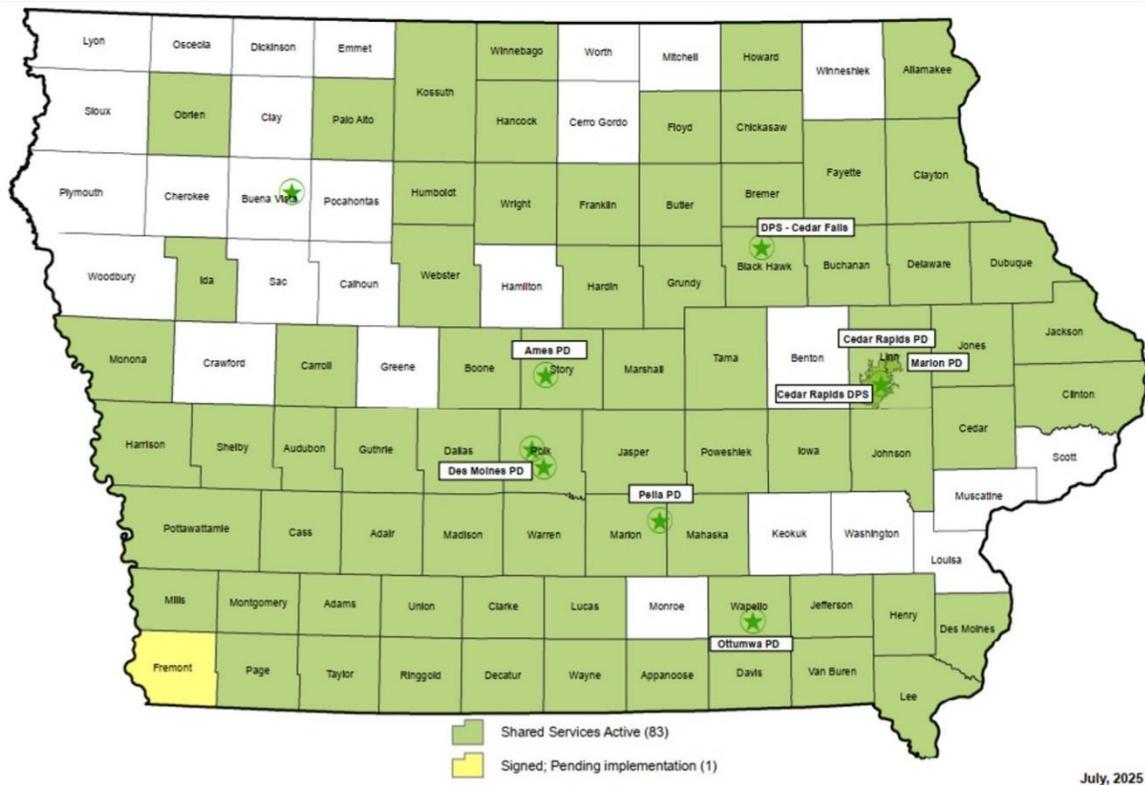
911 Program Financial Report and Program Update. Blake DeRouche, 911 Program Manager and State Administrator of the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), provided the Council with the following updates:

- As of this meeting, there are 30 joint local 911 service boards interested in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to withhold a portion of quarterly wireless surcharges to decrease the administrative effort of invoicing boards for reimbursements to HSEMD for network updates. Currently, 20 boards have signed the MOU pursuant to 2025 Iowa Acts, [Senate File 659](#) (FY 2026 Standing Appropriations Act). The quarterly payment process concludes the week of October 20, and the determination on the necessary surcharge invoicing or withholding will be finalized.
- A recorded Comtech webinar discussing the Technical Data Center moves for the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and call-handling equipment vendors is available.
- Mr. DeRouche will lead a session at the Iowa National Emergency Number Association (NENA) conference on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) NG911 transition order from last year, looking at what Phase 1 and 2 compliance means for Iowa.
- Proposed rewrites of administrative rules for the HSEMD are underway and Chapter 10, “911 Telephone Systems,” is scheduled for publication in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on October 29, 2025, to be followed by public comments.
- Annual forms are coming due January 1, 2026, and the receipt of FY 2025 forms is in progress.
- **Geographic Information System (GIS) Grants:** Funding for GIS grants 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 September, all 99 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. Woodbury County has a request of \$9,900 for purchase of the NENA Communications Training Officer (CTO) course training program. Approximately \$54,000 remains in the Fund following the approval of the course funding.

Shared Services Update. The HSEMD awarded Zetron 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. The virtual learning management system is available for free to all PSAPs, and there is no requirement to be on Iowa shared services. Fremont County deploys its services October 15, 2025. Zetron has a new interface to make it possible to securely send real-time call data to approved artificial intelligence (AI) companies. This interface may provide services such as transcription of audio to text for clarity, the translation of languages, summaries of critical information to reduce response times, and quality assurance by analyzing call records for constructive feedback to give supervisors.

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. Haley Nichols, Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), reported on the following:

- An update on the numbers of system administrators and users on the ISICS.
- The Communication Unit Leader (COML) course completed in September at Council Bluffs had 16 students in attendance and resulted in training of three COML instructors, including one for Iowa.
- The Area 15 Regional Planning Commission, 700 MHz and 800 MHz Regional Planning Committees (RPCs), held their meetings on October 9, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

Information Sharing by Council Members. Chairman Robert Rotter stated that in the coming months, he intends to leave the Iowa County Sheriff’s Office for another position, which will create an opening in the position of Chair.

Next Meeting. The next Council meeting will be held on November 13, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the Dallas County Human Services Campus in Adel.

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