
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

August 20, 2026



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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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IOWA 911 COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL MEETING — AUGUST 2026

Meeting. The 911 Communications Council met on August 13, 2026, 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](#).

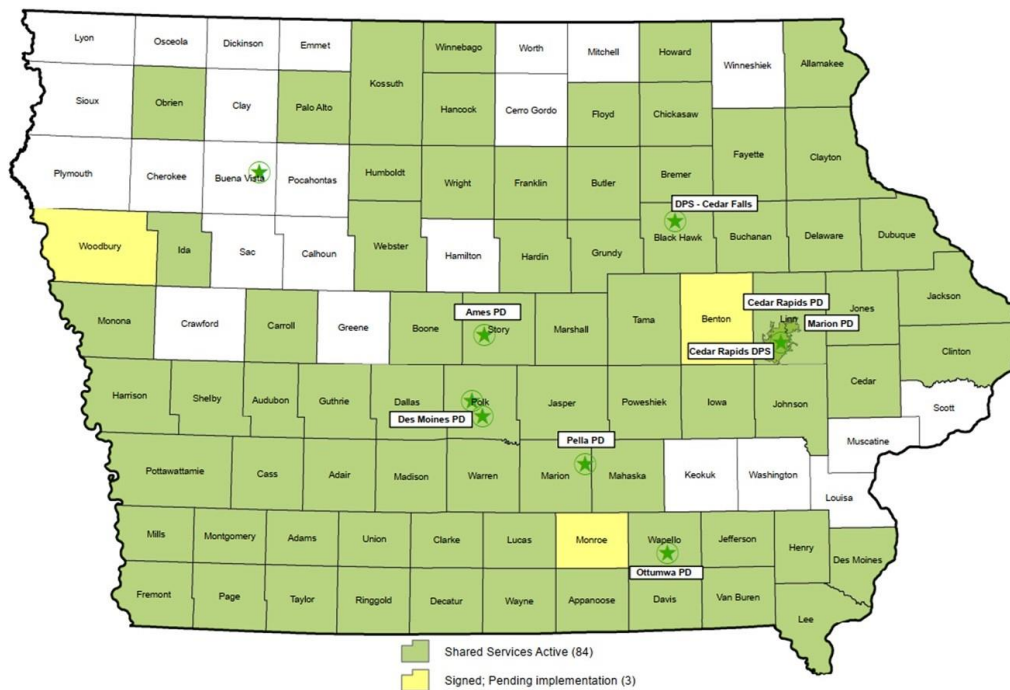
911 Program Financial Report and Program Update. Blake DeRouchey, 911 Program Manager and State Administrator of the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), provided the Council with the following updates:

- The fourth quarter of FY 2026 expenditure report was reviewed, and Mr. DeRouchey emphasized two invoices received after finalization of the report. The shortage amount of approximately \$876,000 for the quarter was calculated prior to the adjustment, and in turn reduced the surcharge remittance payments invoiced to counties.
- The invoiced amount for the fourth quarter was over projection by approximately \$173,000, but includes the nonrecurring costs of the final payment on the data center move from West Des Moines and one-third of the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Points of Interconnection (POIs). Funding of the SIP POIs was originally planned for the first quarter of FY 2027.
- Mr. DeRouchey presented the projected shortages over the next eight quarters, and the objective to level quarterly payments with the [Iowa Communications Network \(ICN\)](#) and Zetron for more predictable billing cycles. Last quarter, eight Public Service Answering Points (PSAPs) renewed their five-year shared services agreement that includes a refresh of equipment reflected in the projections.
- The total invoiced for FY 2026 was approximately \$2.2 million, which is under the initial projection of between \$2.8 and \$2.9 million.
- **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 July, all 99 counties met these benchmarks.
- **Training Fund Requests:** The Council receives an allocation of \$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. There are currently no requests for training, and there is approximately \$53,000 remaining in the Fund for FY 2027.

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. The virtual Learning Management System (LMS) is available for free to all PSAPs, and there is no requirement to be on Iowa shared services. Benton County deploys its shared services August 26, 2026.

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 several issues during the meeting:

- Annual review of the interoperability baseline performance metrics, defined in three categories based on the interoperability capabilities of the State and the goals and objectives of the ISICS Board. All areas were identified in the more sophisticated and stabilized areas of operational sustainability.
- The Central States Communications Exercise (COMMEX) is in Hot Springs, Arkansas, September 22 through 25, 2026.
- The Incident Tactical Dispatcher (INTD) course is tentatively scheduled for this fall to be conducted in Carroll County.
- An assistance request has been submitted to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) for a State-sponsored Communications Unit Leader (COMML) course, tentatively planned for this fall in the Des Moines metro area.
- Ms. Nichols stated that in July radio users reported “ghost clicks,” where a radio activates its transmitter without user input. Following an update, Motorola corrected the issue, and Ms. Nichols reiterated concerns should be reported for the purpose of resolution and incident tracking.

Legislative Issues. Mike Bryant, [911 Communications Council](#), asked if the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) or the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) are drafting new surcharge legislation. Executive Board members Jacob Reineke ([NENA](#)) and Nic Briseño ([APCO](#)) spoke about efforts for the 2027 Legislative Session. The 911 Communications Council debated taking potential action on the matter.

Next Meeting. The next Council meeting will be held on September 10, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Dallas County Human Services Campus in Adel.

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