



To: Government Oversight Committee

From: Alice Fulk Wisner

Date: February 2, 2015

Re: E911 Wireless Surcharge Fourth Calendar Quarter Report (October-December 2014)

The Legislative Services Agency has received the fourth calendar quarter report for 2014 from the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management as required in [Iowa Code section 34A.7A\(3\)\(b\)](#).

The Department received \$7.0 million in revenue from the E911 wireless surcharge. House File 644 (E911 Surcharge Equalization Act) imposed a \$1.00 surcharge on both wireless and wireline E911 programs. Of this amount, \$496,000 was received through prepaid wireless card revenue, a decrease of \$28,700 (5.5%) compared to the previous calendar quarter. A total of \$18,700 of interest was earned during this quarter.

[Iowa Code chapter 34A.7A](#) specifies the priority order for expenditure of the surcharge funds collected. The total expended this quarter was \$3.9 million, a decrease of \$26,000 compared to the previous calendar quarter.

Listed below, by priority order, are the amounts expended:

- \$62,500 for administration. This includes 2.0 FTE positions, an annual audit, and program operating costs. Intent language in [HF 2450](#) (FY 2015 Justice System Appropriations Act) specifies that up to \$250,000 of the wireless surcharge money may be used for these expenses each fiscal year.
- \$138,500 for wireless service provider cost recovery, a decrease of \$3,200 compared to the previous calendar quarter. This reimbursement is 13.0% of the total amount received and is allocated to wireless carriers to recover costs associated with providing wireless E911 Phase 1 (tower address, call back number) service. The difference between the actual amount expended (\$138,500) and the allocation (\$907,800) is \$769,300. The difference is included in the carryover balance.
- \$588,800 for wireline transport costs and automated location information costs, an increase of \$30,900 compared to the previous calendar quarter.
 - \$172,000 for costs incurred by the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) for transporting the call from the selective router to the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). This is a decrease of \$3,700 compared to the previous quarter.

- \$416,800 for contracted costs through Telecommunication Systems Inc. (TCS) for automated location information (ALI) costs, data center facilities and backup Internet Protocol (IP) connectivity, and maintenance agreements for hardware and software. This is an increase of \$35,300 compared to the previous calendar quarter.
- \$3.2 million for the PSAPs. This is a decrease of \$53,700 compared to the previous calendar quarter. There are currently 115 PSAPs providing 56,276 square miles of coverage. In this quarter, the PSAPs received 196,594 wireless calls, a decrease of 25,588 calls compared to the previous quarter.

The funding received by the PSAPs is equal to 46.0% of the surcharge generated and is distributed to the PSAPs based on the following formula: 65.0% based on the square mileage of the local 911 service area and 35.0% based on the volume of wireless E911 calls received by the PSAPs.

- The total carryover funds available from the fourth quarter is \$3.0 million. The total carryover available in the Wireless Surcharge Carryover Fund is \$21.7 million, an increase of \$3.0 million compared to the previous calendar quarter. Of the total available in the Fund, \$22.0 million is obligated for the following:
 - \$3.0 million for network capacity increases.
 - \$7.0 million for continued PSAP projects. This is an increase of \$772,000 compared to the previous calendar quarter. The PSAPs are being encouraged to upgrade their Internet Protocol (IP)-enabled equipment by December 2015 to support the use of the NG911 emergency services IP-based system. The upgrade will allow texting, video, and picture messaging as it becomes available from the carriers, to access emergency care via E911. The PSAPs may apply for up to \$100,000 in carryover funds with no local match requirement.
 - \$10.0 million for the NG911 GIS Project. The money is to be used to upgrade the system to provide the PSAP with the address of the caller and this is the estimated cost over 5 years. In previous statements, \$500,000 per quarter was listed as being obligated, but now the E911 Council has recommended that the total cost of this project be shown as obligated. The initial assessment is being conducted with a final report expected by January 5, 2015.
 - \$2.0 million for a data center move. Currently, there are two data centers; one in West Des Moines and the other in Newton. The minimum distance required is 45 miles, the data center in Newton will be moved to Davenport by March 1, 2015.