

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: 11.16.018

TO: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Christine Westrich, Director, Office of Emergency Management

SUBJECT: From the Director of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), recommending the Governor and Wisconsin State Legislature allocate \$7 million annually for counties to upgrade local 911 centers to begin the Next Generation 911 transition with funding through the existing Police and Fire Protection Fee.

REQUEST

The Director of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) requests adoption of a resolution recommending that the Governor and Wisconsin State Legislature allocate \$7 million annually for counties to upgrade local 911 centers in order to begin the Next Generation 911 (NG911) transition with funding through the existing Police and Fire Protection Fee.

BACKGROUND

The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) has included a request for the state to allocate additional funds to aid counties in the upgrade of outdated analog equipment in their 2019-2020 Legislative Agenda. The WCA has provided a model resolution to all Wisconsin counties in the interest of presenting a unified message.

Modernizing Wisconsin's 911 system has been a priority since the early 2000s and the advent of smart digital technology has increasingly outdated the current analog 911 system. NG911 will allow for automatic call routing sending the caller to the correct 911 center immediately while also implementing smartphone device emergency location services for accurate identification of the caller's location.

The 2017-2019 state biennial budget provided \$6.7 million in funding for creation of a statewide emergency services IP network (ESInet), which is the first step in the transition to a digital Next Generation 911 system.

The Wisconsin Interoperability Council's "Wisconsin Statewide NG911 Plan" approximates the total cost of a statewide ESInet by AT&T to be \$12.5 million or 18-cents per capita. The current monies allocated, \$6.7 million, is roughly half the amount and more funding is needed.

The ESInet is the network which allows many of the NG911 features to be implemented, connecting local Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) allowing for immediate back-

up in the event of call center saturation or complete shutdown. This ESInet, once operational, will require each PSAP to have NG911 capable equipment.

Milwaukee County's OEM 911 Communications Center currently has NG911 capable equipment, however, many of the 139 statewide PSAPs do not. The average cost for this equipment is \$250,000 with additional ongoing maintenance costs.

State funding for 911 has not existed in over a decade as the 2009 implementation of the Police and Fire Protection Fee (Wis. Stat. 196.025(6)) original intent to fund PSAPs has not occurred. Rather, the fee is deposited in the state's general fund as shared revenue payments to counties, cities, towns, and villages in the form of unrestricted aid. The Police and Fire Protection Fee is therefore redistributed as shared revenue and is not directly supporting 911 services. In 2015, the collected fee represented roughly \$52 million.

An October 2018 joint report to Congress titled, "NG911 Cost Estimate" by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) estimates a ten-year set-up and migration cost of NG911 to be \$1,750 million dollars for FEMA Region V (WI, MN, MI, IL, IN, OH).

Further breakdown for the state of Wisconsin is \$291.7 million over ten years with an annual estimated cost of \$19.7 million for all Wisconsin PSAPs.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended to adopt the resolution in order to urge the Governor and Wisconsin State Legislature to allocate \$7 million annually for counties to upgrade local 911 centers to begin the NG911 transition while further requesting the \$7 million in county PSAP upgrades be funded through the existing Police and Fire Protection Fee.

FISCAL IMPACT

Indirect impact of adoption of this resolution would be future cost savings to Milwaukee County should the state realize the original intent of the Police and Fire Protection Fee monies towards 911 PSAPs.

Christine Westrich
Director, Office of Emergency Management

Attachments: RESOLUTION
FISCAL NOTE
WISCONSIN STATEWIDE NG911 PLAN
NG911 COST ESTIMATE

CC: Chris Abele, County Executive
Supervisor James "Luigi" Schmitt, Chair, Committee on Finance & Audit
Finance & Audit Committee Members
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Joseph Lamers, Director, Department of Administrative Services-Performance,
Strategy and Budget (DAS-PSB)
Josh Scott, Fiscal and Management Analyst, Department of Administrative
Services-Performance, Strategy and Budget (DAS-PSB)
Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller
Janelle Jensen, Committee Clerk, Finance & Audit Committee