



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: October 28, 2021

DATE: Friday, October 22, 2021

TO: 911 Emergency Response Advisory Committee

FROM: Quinn Korbolic, IT Manager, Washoe County Technology Services
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THROUGH: Behzad Zamanian, Chief Information Officer, Washoe County

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve or approve with modification the 911 Five-Year Master Plan prepared by Federal Engineering, Inc.; and recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve and adopt the 911 Five-Year Master Plan.

SUMMARY

The Board of County Commissioners may not impose a 911 surcharge unless the board first adopts a 5-Year Master Plan for the 911 Telephone System and for Portable and Vehicular recording devices. The current 911 5-Year master Plan was adopted in February of 2018 and, importantly, recommended that the 911 Telephone line surcharge be increased to \$0.85 per month for each customer access line to the local exchange of a telecommunications provider; \$0.85 per month for each telephone number assigned a customer by a supplier of mobile telephone service; and \$8.50 per month for each customer trunk line to the local exchange of a telecommunications provider. The 2018 plan also included several recommendations. While not all recommendations from the 2018 plan have been followed, the divergence of the plan's revenue, spending, and 911 fund balance projections from the actual, necessitates an update of the plan. Similarly, 2019 Legislative changes allow use of the 911 fund by additional agencies; regional agencies have taken action to replace the regional Computer Aided Dispatch which may utilize 911 Funds; and agencies have taken action to expand their respective PSAP capacities, potentially negating the need for a dedicated regional PSAP backup site as recommended by the 2018 plan.

To address the substantial changes since the 2018 911 Five-Year Master Plan was drafted, the 911 Emergency Response Advisory Committee recommended that the plan be updated. Subsequently, the Board of County Commissioners, upon recommendation from the 911 Committee, directed Washoe County staff to update the plan.

The updated 5-Year Master Plan, as presented, includes recommendations to:

- Create a Regional PSAP Backup Plan including remote worksites and a mobile command center to support PSAP operations.
- Consider efforts to change existing State legislation to be compliant with FCC regulations related to the diversion of 911 Surcharge funds.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

- Establish a structured Process for funding 911 programs and equipment.
- Complete a Next Generation 911 Readiness/Technology Assessment to identify funding and budget needs for future technology enhancements.

The updated 5-Year Master Plan also addresses:

- Replacement of the regional Computer Aided Dispatch system which includes related funding and cost considerations
- Changes to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) related to 911 Expenditures.
- Regional 911 Fund budget existing, expected and planned expenditures and their impact on the 911 fund balance.

The Plan also covers the following requirements as specified in NRS 244A.7643:

- Cost estimates for enhancement of the telephone system for reporting emergencies in the county and for purchasing and maintaining portable event recording devices and vehicular event recording devices.
- All proposed sources of money for funding those costs, including the 911 surcharge as specified in NRS 244A.7643

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities

PREVIOUS ACTION

On August 25, 2020 the Board of County Commissioners moved to direct staff to update the 911 Emergency Response Five-Year Master Plan to include, but not be limited to, inclusion of a plan for Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) back-up sites, a Computer Aided Dispatch upgrade, and modifications to NRS from the 2019 Nevada State Legislature.

On July 16, 2020 the Emergency Response Advisory Committee recommended that the Board of County Commissioners direct staff to update the 911 Five-Year Master Plan to include a plan for PSAP back-up sites, a Computer Aided Dispatch upgrade, additional changes related to Portable Event Recording Devices, and associated modifications to NRS at the 2019 NV Legislature.

On February 20, 2018 the Board of County Commissioners adopted the Washoe County Regional 911 Emergency Response Advisory Committee Five Year Master Plan Update; and approved the 911 Emergency Response Advisory Committee's recommendation to increase the 911 telephone line surcharge to \$0.85 per month for each customer access line to the local exchange of a telecommunications provider; \$0.85 per month for each telephone number assigned a customer by a supplier of mobile telephone service; and \$8.50 per month for each customer trunk line to the local exchange of a telecommunications provider.

On January 18, 2018, the 911 Committee voted to recommend that the board of county commissioners adopt the current proposed Five Year Master Plan Update that was drafted by the Galena Group, Inc. by a 6-2 vote with 1 member absent. The 911 Committee also recommended that the board increase the 911 surcharge from the previous statutorily capped maximum amount of \$0.25 per month for each customer access line/ mobile telephone number to \$0.85 per month to support on-going costs for the 911 telephone system and to provide funding for SB 176's body camera mandate.

On January 16, 2018, the board of county commissioners adopted the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners' Policy for the Use of 911 Surcharge Funds for the Body Camera Mandate Set Forth in Nevada Senate Bill 176 (2017).

On October 10, 2017, the board of county commissioners adopted Ordinance No. 1601, which amended Washoe County Code ("WCC") Chapter 65 by: (1) expanding the permissible use of the 911 telephone line surcharge to include the purchase and maintenance of portable event recording devices and vehicular event recording devices, as permitted by NV SB 176 (2017); (2) clarifying the powers and duties of the 911 Committee; (3) adding definitions of "law enforcement agency", "portable event recording device" and "vehicular event recording device"; and (4) amending the 911 Committee's membership as required by NV SB 176 (2017).

On June 25, 2013, upon recommendation by the 911 Committee, the board of county commissioners adopted the Washoe County Regional 911 Emergency Response Advisory Committee Five Year Master Plan Update to the 911 Strategic Master Plan; and adopted the Regional 911 Emergency Response Advisory Committee Guidebook prepared by the Galena Group.

On January 8, 2008, upon recommendation by the 911 Committee, the board of county commissioners accepted the 911 Emergency Response Five-Year Strategic Plan prepared by the Matrix Consulting Group. It was noted that acceptance of the report did not include approval of the specific recommendations made in the report.

On September 12, 2006, upon recommendation by the 911 Committee, the board of county commissioners approved a contract with Matrix Consulting Group in response to Washoe County RFP No. 2545-06 for an E911 Review and Audit Report. The board authorized Washoe County's Purchasing and Contracts Administrator to execute an agreement for the same in the estimated amount of \$49,000.

BACKGROUND

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 244A.7643 requires that a County adopt a 911 Five-Year Master Plan before implementing a 911 Surcharge:

NRS 244A.7643 2 - A board of county commissioners may not impose a surcharge pursuant to this section unless the board first adopts a 5-year master plan for the enhancement of the telephone system for reporting emergencies in the county or for the purpose of purchasing and maintaining portable event recording devices and vehicular event recording devices, as applicable. The master plan must include an estimate of the cost of the enhancement of the telephone system or of the cost of purchasing and maintaining portable event recording devices and vehicular event recording devices, as applicable, and all proposed sources of money for funding those costs. For the duration of the imposition of the surcharge, the board shall, at least annually, review and, if necessary, update the master plan.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct fiscal impact as a result of the 911 Emergency Response Committee adopting the 911 Five-Year Master Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to approve or approve with modification the 911 Five-Year Master Plan prepared by Federal Engineering, Inc.; and recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve and adopt the 911 Five-Year Master Plan.

POSSIBLE MOTION

If the committee agrees with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve the 911 Five-Year Master Plan prepared by Federal Engineering, Inc.; and recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve and adopt the 911 Five-Year Master Plan."