RESOLUTION NO. 18-103-111

RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Kathryn Sukus
INITIATED BY
Public Safety & Justice Committee
SUBMITTED BY

Kathryn Sukus, Director
DRAFTED BY
October 9, 2018
DATE DRAFTED

FUNDING FOR NEXT GENERATION 911 UPGRADES

WHEREAS, modernizing Wisconsin’s 911 system has been a priority for local governments, Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), law enforcement, and the telecommunications industry since the early 2000s; and,

WHEREAS, the 2017-19 state biennial budget provided 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 (NG911) system; and,

WHEREAS, a NG911 system utilizes advancements in technology to improve communication with 911 operators and provides greater efficiency in assisting individuals in crisis; and,

WHEREAS, once the ESInet is operational, local 911 centers (PSAPs) will require NG911 capable equipment to connect to the digital system; and,

WHEREAS, currently very few PSAPs have the equipment necessary to utilize the ESInet and transition from analog to digital systems and while Rock County does have the necessary equipment as an early adopter, it is already due for replacement due to age; and,

WHEREAS, the average cost for the necessary equipment upgrades will exceed $250,000 per county in addition to ongoing maintenance costs; and,

WHEREAS, while the state has provided grant funding for counties in the past to upgrade local PSAPs, state funding has not existed in over a decade; and,

WHEREAS, the state currently has a fund — the Police and Fire Protection Fee — whose original intent was to fund county PSAP upgrades; and,

WHEREAS, revenue from the Police and Fire Protection Fee is deposited in the state's general fund and has never been utilized for its intended purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 28th day of October, 2018, does hereby urge the Governor and Wisconsin Legislature to allocate $7 million annually for counties to upgrade local 911 centers to begin the NG911 transition; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the $7 million for county PSAP upgrades should be funded through the existing Police and Fire Protection Fee.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Mary Beattie, Chair

Philip Owen, Vice Chair

Absent

Kara Hawes

Brian Knudson

Terry Foll
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COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE

Russell Bodzi, Chair
Mary McWhinney, Vice Chair
Richard Bostwick

Henry Bill
Betty J. Hassell
Louis Peer

Absent: Alan Sweeney
Terry Thomas
Bob Yeomans

ADMINSISTRATIVE NOTE:
Recommended.

Josh Smith
County Administrator

FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution is advisory only and has no direct fiscal impact on Rock County operations in and by itself.

Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

Advisory only.

Richard Greenlee
Corporation Counsel
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Communications Center has had Next Generation 911 capable equipment since 2013. However, due to the age of the equipment the Communications Center has submitted a CIP for 2019 and 2020 to replace 911 telephone equipment with an estimated cost of over $225,000. This will replace the call handling computers, servers, and software. The software and servers for the Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system were updated in 2018 at a cost of over $260,000. The annual maintenance for both systems is over $220,000. All of these costs are currently funded by sales tax proceeds or out of the operating budgets for the Communications Center and Information Technology.

Allocating the Police and Fire Protection Fee for county PSAP upgrades, as originally intended, would help pay for this critical equipment.