

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 22A-0339T

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF THE PHILLIPS COUNTY 911 EMERGENCY
TELEPHONE SERVICE AUTHORITY TO INCREASE THE EMERGENCY TELEPHONE
CHARGE.

**INTERIM COMMISSION DECISION REQUIRING
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Mailed Date: September 14, 2022

Adopted Date: September 14, 2022

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. On July 29, 2022, the Phillips County 911 Emergency Telephone Authority (Phillips) filed its Application pursuant to § 29-11-102(2)(b), C.R.S., for approval of an emergency telephone charge of \$4.00 per service user per month (Application). Through this Interim Decision, we request additional information, consistent with the discussion below, to be filed in this proceeding no later than September 28, 2022.

B. Background

2. On August 2, 2022, the Commission gave notice of the Application stating that parties wishing to participate in this Proceeding should file an Intervention or other appropriate pleading within 30 days after the date of the Notice.

3. On August 15, 2022, the Applicant filed Proof of Publication of notice of the Application, pursuant to 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* (CCR) 723-2-2147(d) of the Commission's Rules Regulating Telecommunications Services and Providers of Telecommunications Services.

4. No interventions were filed or public comments received in response to this Application.

5. The Applicant is a governing body as defined by § 29-11-101(16), C.R.S. A governing body may incur equipment, installation, and other costs directly related to the continued operation of emergency telephone service pursuant to § 29-11-102, C.R.S. Governing bodies may expend money collected from the emergency telephone charge, the 911 surcharge, and the prepaid wireless 911 charge on certain expenses pursuant to § 29-11-104(2)(a), C.R.S.

II. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

6. While other factors also impact the Applicant's request for an increase, the largest cost referenced in the Application as the cause of the requested increase is a proposed expense for calendar year 2026 in the amount of \$291,873 for replacement of radio consoles for two radio positions at the Phillips County Communications Center.

7. An application for authorization to set an emergency telephone charge in excess of the current threshold of \$1.81 is initiated by a governing body in order to provide "continued and adequate emergency telephone service," and a governing body is required obtain the Commission's approval for such an amount. § 29-11-102(2)(c), C.R.S.

8. We find it necessary to seek additional information for clarity regarding the requested increase prior to considering the merits of the Applicant's request.

- a) A description of the process undertaken by the Applicant to obtain the quote from the vendor for the replacement of the radio consoles, including a statement indicating whether the Applicant sought or received quotes from competing vendors for replacement of the radio consoles. If no additional quotes were sought, the statement should explain why. If additional quotes were received, descriptions of those quotes (including whether the quotes were lower and whether comparable equipment and

services were included) or copies of those quotes should be attached to the Applicant's response.¹

- b) A statement explaining what factors were considered by the Applicant in selecting the quote provided in the Application if there were any quotes received that were lower.
- c) A statement indicating whether the Applicant has considered consolidating its PSAP with a neighboring PSAP to reduce costs, and if so a description of the outcome of those considerations.

9. We note that the earliest available effective date for a higher Emergency Telephone Charge rate allowed by statute is February 1, 2023. The Applicant is also required to provide service suppliers at least sixty days prior to the effective date. § 29-11-102(2)(b), C.R.S. Because of this, we determine that requiring additional questions to be answered prior to granting or denying the Application will not unduly jeopardize the Applicant's ability to implement the requested Emergency Telephone Charge rate if the Application is granted.

III. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

- 1. The Phillips County 911 Emergency Telephone Service Authority Board shall file supplemental information, consistent with the discussion above, on or before September 28, 2022.
- 2. This Decision is effective upon its Mailed Date.

¹ If necessary, the Applicant may file such information using the procedures relating to confidential information in the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 4 CCR 723-1-1101.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
September 14, 2022.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Doug Dean,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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JOHN GAVAN

MEGAN M. GILMAN

Commissioners