

9-1-1 Funding

THE CITIZENS OF NORTHWEST WISCONSIN REQUEST

That the State Legislature support efforts to revise 9-1-1 legislation that includes ongoing funding mechanisms for networking required to deliver 9-1-1 calls to the local Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and equipment advancements required to process those calls in order that every resident in Wisconsin, no matter where they reside or travel, have access to 9-1-1.

BACKGROUND

Current 9-1-1 legislation (256.35) was drafted over 25 years ago to fund the 9-1-1 network when 9-1-1 was only accessed by landline phones. The monthly fee established and collected by telephone providers can only be used for incoming *landline* 9-1-1 trunks.

Each county in northwest Wisconsin has one consolidated PSAP. Each PSAP is responsible to purchase and maintain the equipment and systems required to receive, answer, and locate the 9-1-1 caller.

Counties are being faced with costs that significantly exceed recoverable expenses allowed by current statute.

- There has been a marked decrease in billable access lines (landline).
- Mileage costs related to 9-1-1 network trunking continue to increase.
- Low population areas generate high per line charges.
- There is no funding source for wireless network costs.
- There is no funding source for aging PSAP equipment.
 - There is no funding source to purchase PSAP equipment with the capability to collect all 9-1-1 call information from devices that are currently in use by those experiencing an emergency.
- There is no funding source to expand the capability of PSAPs to accept additional information as new technology emerges.

We are approaching a crisis! Counties can no longer afford increasing costs associated with providing 9-1-1.

The Joint Legislative Council established a Special Committee on 9-1-1 Communications in May of 2012 to review 9-1-1 public safety communications in Wisconsin and develop draft legislation as needed to strengthen and improve the 9-1-1 system. Part of their charge included studying the creation of a statewide entity to provide coordination and long-term planning and review funding and costs associated with operating the system. Several recommendations came out of that committee.

The citizens of Wisconsin need legislative action that will address the issues outlined by the Special Committee on 9-1-1 Communications and eliminate the existing and ongoing funding crisis.

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