

Agenda Item Report



Winnebago County
The Wave of the Future

DATE: June 21, 2023

FROM: Sheriff John Matz

RE: Designated Public Safety Answer Point for Winnebago County

General Description:

Designate the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Communications Center as the sole PSAP for Winnebago County as required for potential grant funding.

Action Requested:

Motion to approve resolution to designate the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Communications Center as the sole PSAP for Winnebago County.

Procedural Steps:

(Show each level of committee and board approval needed, with meeting dates.)

Committee of Jurisdiction: Judiciary & Public Safety

Meeting date: 07/10/2023

Action taken: APPROVED

Vote: 5-0

County Board: _____

Meeting date: 07/18/2023

Background:

Wis Stat § 256.35(1)(gm) says "Public safety answering point" means a facility to which a call on an emergency number system is initially routed for response, and on which a public agency directly dispatches the appropriate emergency service provider, relays a message to the appropriate emergency service provider or transfers the call to the appropriate emergency services provider.

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Communications Center has been the designated Public Safety Answer Point (PASAP) for all Winnebago County 911 calls since its inception in the early 1980's. Currently this is approximately 50,000 calls annually. Over the years, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office has steadily made improvements and upgrades to the call handling equipment as needed. Recent improvements have taken us down the path to be fully Next Generation 911 compliant, but there is much work yet to be done.

Next Generation 911 (NG911) means a statewide emergency number system regardless of technology platform that does all of the following: provides standardized interfaces from requests for emergency assistance; processes all types of requests for emergency assistance, including calls and nonvoice and multimedia messages; acquires and integrates data useful to the delivery or routing and handling of requests for emergency assistance; delivers requests for emergency assistance and data to appropriate public safety answering points and emergency responders; supports data and communications needs for coordinated incident response and management; and provides a secure environment for emergency communications.

Working closely with the Winnebago County Geographic Information Systems Division (GIS) staff, progress is being made towards the end goal of connecting with the State of Wisconsin ESInet, their managed Internet protocol network that is used for emergency services and can be shared by all public safety answering points. GIS has funding in their 2023 budget for advancements on their data conversion. The Sheriff's Office will be including funds in 2024 for additional electrical and circuitry work that needs to be completed. The circuitry work is highly technical requiring vendor expertise and will coincide with the NG911 project completion anticipated to occur very late in 2024.

Policy Discussion:

2019 Wisconsin Act 26 requires the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs to provide grants to one public safety answering point in each county that meet the highly specific eligibility criteria and grant purposes identified in Wis. Admin. Code § DMA 2.05. Wis. Admin. Code § DMA 2.03 requires that each county designate via County Board Resolution a public safety answering point as the “designated public safety answering point” to be eligible to apply for grants in that county. The designated public safety answering point for Winnebago County is the only public safety answering point eligible to apply for grants for the life of the grant program in Winnebago County.

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office applied for and received the first Department of Military Affairs grant in 2019 for 911 call handling hardware and software upgrades. Additionally, we applied for and received a supplemental grant to help account for project overages in 2021. Those initial DMA grants did not require the PSAP designation by County Board resolution.

Subsequent grant applications now require the County Board Resolution designation. A new grant was announced on June 16, 2023, with an application deadline of August 1, 2023, that we may qualify to apply for. The resolution must be included with the grant application as part of the eligibility criteria, as required by Wis. Admin. Code § DMA 2.05. It will also be required for future anticipated GIS grants related to NG911 data.

This resolution has zero fiscal impact, and simply formalizes the PSAP designation so as to allow Winnebago County to proceed with any applicable grant applications related to NG911.

Attachments:

Attachment 1-Resolution