

2 **RESOLUTION: Support State Funding for County 911 Services**

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5 **TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

6 **WHEREAS**, 911 emergency dispatch services are among the most vital services that counties provide;
7 and

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9 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin residents expect the same level of excellent service throughout the state,
10 regardless of where an emergency may occur; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, in 2003 the State of Wisconsin established a fee on all wireless phones to fund grants to
13 counties to pay for enhanced 911 services, including wireless call-locating software and equipment; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, since 2009, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and the State's telecommunications
16 providers, have advocated establishing a permanent grant program to fund equipment purchases and
17 training for employees of county-designated Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), with each county to
18 designate one PSAP per county by resolution, to be funded with a monthly fee of up to 75¢ on all devices
19 capable of dialing 911; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, since 2009, the Wisconsin Legislature and the Governor have redesignated funding for
22 911 emergency services as a 75¢ per month Police and Fire Protection Fee for all telephone calling devices
23 and directed the revenue from the fee to fund the county and municipal aid (shared revenue) account to
24 meet other state financial obligations; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, presently, counties must rely almost entirely on property taxes to pay for equipment,
27 training, and consolidation of municipal and county 911 services; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, eliminating the Police and Fire Protection Fee, and restoring funding for 911 without
30 replacing the lost revenue would result in an approximate \$50 million annual reduction in shared revenue
31 payments to municipalities and counties; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, under current law each county must individually contract with a telecommunications
34 provider for telephone lines running into each county's 911 center. Counties must depend on a maximum
35 40¢ per month fee on only landline telephones to pay telecommunications providers for the cost of this
36 service; and

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38 **WHEREAS**, revenues from such fees are declining due to the decreased use of landline
39 telephones and the increased use of cellular telephones.

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42 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it
43 hereby urges the Wisconsin Legislature and Governor to support legislation and state budget action that
44 accomplishes all of the following goals:

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- 46 • Fully funds the County and Municipal Aid Program (shared revenue) with state General Purpose
47 Revenue, rather than through the Police and Fire Protection Fee;
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 - 49 • Establishes a technology-neutral fee on all cellular telephones, landline telephones, and other devices
50 capable of dialing 911;

- Uses the revenue from this fee to fund a grant program to pay for equipment purchases and training for one Public Safety Answering Point (911 center) per county, as designated by the county board of each county, and to develop financial incentives to encourage consolidation of 911 services; and
- Provides a sustainable source of funding for costs associated with providing all telephone lines (both landline and cellular) into one county Public Safety Answering Point;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it directs that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Winnebago County Clerk to the following:

- The Wisconsin Counties Association;
- All Legislators representing Winnebago County constituents;
- The Governor of the State of Wisconsin.

Fiscal Impact. There is no fiscal impact if County and Municipal Aid Program (shared revenue) of approximately \$50 million is funded through the State General Purpose Revenue.

Respectfully submitted by:

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Committee Vote: **14-0**

Vote Required for Passage: **Majority of Those Present**

Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this ____ day of _____, 2014.

Mark L Harris
Winnebago County Executive