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"Ensuring a safe and secure homeland for all North Dakotans"

TESTIMONY
TAXATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 3, 2010
BY MIKE LYNK
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NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Mike Lynk. I am the Director of the Division of State Radio, North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES). Today I am here to provide information relating to the 911 funding study and information gathering to compare the share of 911 services funded by jurisdictional general fund dollars and 911 fees to support local public safety answering points (PSAPs).

The State of North Dakota currently has 22 PSAPs, six of which serve a multi-county purpose. During the 2009-2011 legislative session NDCC 57-40.6-02 (8) was adopted and stated "political subdivisions within an intrastate multicounty public safety answering point may exceed the maximum fee of one dollar to an amount not to exceed one dollar and fifty cents. The governing body of the political subdivision may increase the fee by resolution subject to a vote in that political subdivision at the next general election". Two of the State Radio serviced counties have decided to raise the county 911 fee to \$1.50. One of the counties has required clarification of legislative intent. Other State Radio counties are waiting until the 911 fee for 2011 is determined before establishing a different fee.

The 2007 ESCS Revenues, Expenditures, and Reserves chart indicates the 911 revenues and expenditures for 2007. The 2009 versions will be published in early 2010.

The PSAP 2009 Fee Structure chart indicates expenditures covered by the 911 fees and percentage of local general fund dollars required to support 911 services. The chart illustrates the large portion of local general fund dollars that support the local PSAPs.

If an emergency dictates a PSAP evacuation, a procedure termed "Condition 3" establishes the backup link in which the 911 network provider reroutes calls to a designated backup or alternative PSAP. The backup PSAP sites are determined in advance through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) or verbal agreement. The PSAP backup location chart indicates the PSAPs designated backups.

I will attempt to answer any questions the committee may have.