



Kansas NG911 Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 23, 2023 – Web Conference

1 Call To Order

The Kansas 911 Coordinating Council (“Council”) general meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Sheriff Troy Briggs, Chairman of the Kansas 911 Coordinating Council. Chairman Briggs reviewed the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) rules for the meeting, and the chat feature of this web conference was disabled.

2 Roll Call

Roll call attendance was taken by Gayle Schwarzrock. There were 14 voting members, and five (5) non-voting members present at the time of roll call attendance. Some Council members joined the meeting after roll call and some Council members had to leave the meeting early.

Chairman Briggs clarified with the Council that he is still the voting member representative for the Kansas Sheriffs’ Association (KSA) for this meeting, however, this would be his final meeting in that voting position.

Council Members in Attendance

Voting Members: Krista Amaro, Brandon Beck, Senator Rick Billinger, Chairman Troy Briggs, Jac Brown, Representative John Carmichael, Tony Foster, Senator Marci Francisco, Jerry Harrison, Scott Hilbrink, Representative Kyle Hoffman, Catherine Macfee, Josh Michaelis, Jeremy Rabb, Becky Snook, and Jonathan York.

Non-Voting Members: Terry Clark, Jerry Daniels, Patrick Fucik, Robert McDonald, Ken Nelson, and Sara Spinks.

Council Members Absent

Voting Members: N/A

Non-Voting Members: Liz Phillips, Michael Ruffin, and Mark Tucker.

Council Staff and Support In Attendance

Michele Abbott, Eileen Battles, Kathleen Becker, Scott Ekberg, Sherry Massey, Angela Murphy, Braden Perry, Gayle Schwarzrock, Ellen Wernicke, and Randall White.



3 Consent Agenda

Chairman Briggs presented the Consent Agenda for today’s meeting, which included presentation of the April 14, 2023, meeting minutes, LCPA financial reports, staff and committee reports, and the Council Handbook.

3.1 April 14, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Chairman Briggs presented the April 14, 2023, meeting minutes for review. No questions or issues were raised. **Motion to approve the April 14, 2023, Meeting Minutes** made by Becky Snook, seconded by Jac Brown. A roll call vote was held with all in favor. Motion carried.

Voting Members (15)	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Krista Amaro , PSAPs under 75k	X		
Brandon Beck , KS EMS Board	X		
Senator Rick Billinger , Senate	X		
Troy Briggs , Kansas Sheriff Association	X		
Jac Brown , Govt IT	X		
Representative John Carmichael , House	X		
Tony Foster , PSAPs over 75k	X		
Senator Marci Francisco , Senate	X		
Jerry Harrison , KACP	X		
Scott Hilbrink , Fire Chief	X		
Cady (Catherine) Macfee , KCDHH	X		
Josh Michaelis , PSAPs under 75k	X		
Jeremy Rabb , PSAPs over 75k	X		
Becky Snook , KS APCO	X		
Jonathan York , Adjutant General's Office	X		
VOTE: Approve April 14, 2023 meeting minutes MOTION BY: Becky Snook SECONDED BY: Jac Brown PASSED: All in favor. Motion carried.			

3.2 LCPA Financial Reports

Kathy Becker presented the current Local Collection Point Administrator (LCPA) financial reports, which covered the 1st quarter of 2023 (January-March 2023).

- Balance Sheet: all in order. No concerns.
- Summary Report: all categories of expenses to fully reflect what is being paid. In alignment with the annual Work Plan and Budget.
- Detail Report: the Summary Report in detail. The Operating Expense is 0.55%, which is well below the allotted 2% maximum.

Representative John Carmichael inquired what the operating surplus currently is for the Council. Since the Council will be asked to vote on an emerging NG911 i3 application, he wanted to ensure the business case supports the additional cost. Scott Ekberg shared that the current operating surplus is approximately \$37 M. Scott added that most of that surplus is earmarked for anticipated sustaining



costs through year 2030. Rob McDonald advised that the links on the website pertaining to budget information may be out of date. **ACTION** Michele Abbott to investigate.

Motion to approve the LCPA financial reports as presented made by Jeremy Rabb, seconded by Krista Amaro. Roll call vote was held with 14 aye and 1 nay. **Motion carried.**

Voting Members (15)	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Krista Amaro , PSAPs under 75k	X		
Brandon Beck , KS EMS Board	X		
Senator Rick Billinger , Senate	X		
Troy Briggs , Kansas Sheriff Association	X		
Jac Brown , Govt IT	X		
Representative John Carmichael , House		X	
Tony Foster , PSAPs over 75k	X		
Senator Marci Francisco , Senate	X		
Jerry Harrison , KACP	X		
Scott Hilbrink , Fire Chief	X		
Cady (Catherine) Macfee , KCDHH	X		
Josh Michaelis , PSAPs under 75k	X		
Jeremy Rabb , PSAPs over 75k	X		
Becky Snook , KS APCO	X		
Jonathan York , Adjutant General's Office	X		
VOTE: Approval of the LCPA financial reports			
MOTION BY: Jeremy Rabb			
SECONDED BY: Krista Amaro			
PASSED: 14 aye, 1 nay. Motion carried.			

3.3 Staff and Committee Reports

Scott Ekberg advised that the staff reports were submitted as part of the consent agenda. Chairman Troy Briggs inquired if there were any questions regarding these reports. Scott gave a summary of the responsibilities of each of the Council staff and the LCPA.

3.4 Council Member Handbook

Chairman Briggs presented the handbook. No questions or issues were raised.

3.5 Approval of Consent Agenda

Chief of Police Jerry Harrison (City of Independence) and Rep John Carmichael expressed the desire to discontinue the consent agenda and resume full reports from committees, staff, and others. Sheriff Briggs agreed to discuss and vote at the next Council meeting, Aug 25, 2023.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda (not including the minutes and financial reports) made by Josh Michaelis, seconded by Senator Marci Francisco.



Voting Members (15)	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Krista Amaro , PSAPs under 75k	X		
Brandon Beck , KS EMS Board	X		
Senator Rick Billinger , Senate	X		
Troy Briggs , Kansas Sheriff Association	X		
Jac Brown , Govt IT	X		
Representative John Carmichael , House		X	
Tony Foster , PSAPs over 75k	X		
Senator Marci Francisco , Senate	X		
Jerry Harrison , KACP	X		
Scott Hilbrink , Fire Chief	X		
Cady (Catherine) Macfee , KCDHH	X		
Josh Michaelis , PSAPs under 75k	X		
Jeremy Rabb , PSAPs over 75k	X		
Becky Snook , KS APCO	X		
Jonathan York , Adjutant General's Office	X		
VOTE: Approval of the Consent Agenda (not incl. the minutes and financial reports) MOTION BY: Josh Michaelis SECONDED BY: Senator Marci Francisco PASSED: 14 aye, 1 nay. Motion carried.			

4 Chairman's Report

Chairman Briggs presented the Chairman's Report and introduced himself as the new Chairman of the Council. Chairman Briggs advised that he wants to form some new committees and subcommittees such as a financial committee and hiring committee which will encourage more Council involvement. Since the LCPA is not a 911 entity, they are not completely aware of what the Council needs to fully operate regarding each of the entities represented on the Council and the work of 9-1-1. Chairman Briggs expressed that the legislative intent [of the Kansas 911 Act] is that the Council itself maintain the authority to oversee what the group performs and the direction we are headed.

4.1 RapidResponder Application

Chairman Briggs introduced Steven ("Steve") Raucher, Co-founder and CEO of RapidDeploy. Steve introduced his partner and Chief Information Officer (CIO) of RapidDeploy, Brett Meyerowitz. Steve demonstrated for the Council an emerging NG911 RapidDeploy product application [currently named] RapidResponder intended to assist First Responders. The application is scheduled to be released December 2023. Steve answered numerous questions raised by Council members.

Steve shared that he is approaching the state of Kansas as the first statewide customer to work with in partnership with on this application. Because of the close relationship among the Council, the state's coverage with FirstNet, and our strong relationship with AT&T, Steve is offering Kansas a 50% discounted rate for the entire life of the platform. Chairman Briggs advised that the next step is discussing price.



Scott asked for opinions on the desirability of the application.

- Chairman Briggs advised that his discussion with other sheriffs has been very receptive and positive. Having the ability to review live scenarios in the field is very attractive. Chairman Briggs pointed out that no one is obligated to accept the application at their center. Having advanced mapping and asset tracking is very important. Chairman Briggs also stressed that there is even more capability from the application than what was discussed today. He fully supports having the application.
- Regarding Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL), Scott Ekberg pointed out that because this is device-based location, when most of our volunteer firefighters are responding to fire incidents, they are responding in their private vehicle to the scene. The fact that the application is tracking by device rather than by apparatus is an advantage because a person can immediately see where they are responding from and track them as opposed to their emergency vehicle.
- Chief Terry Clark expressed the significance of this app for those in rural areas that are limited and do not have mobile CADs, P25 radios, or even cell phones, and dispatching is solely done by radio. He feels this would speed up response times.
- Scott Hilbrink advised that he reached out to his board members [Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs] and they fully support adopting this application. The ability to bring in some of the capabilities that the bigger cities had a major impact on their decision.
- Jeremy Rabb expressed the tremendous amount of technology presented in one package, including AVL capability. He shared that having the ability to geo-locate an officer or first responder remotely when they are in an accident, such as a single vehicle rollover accident, saved the life of a deputy he knows. In rural areas, such as where he lives, there are numerous first responders who do not have this capability. Jeremy also referenced resource management across jurisdictional boundaries, knowing who is working within his area when there is a large situation, such as a large grass fire requiring mutual aid and bringing in other counties. There would be the capability to track those additional individuals.
- Tony Foster added that there are a lot of rural responders that do not have these capabilities. He fully supports this project.
- Brandon Beck advised the Board of EMS supports moving forward with this project.
- Josh Michaelis advised that as a PSAP representative of populations less than 75,000, he sent an email to those PSAPs for their feedback. The responses received fully supported the application.
- Becky Snook, Kansas APCO representative, shared that Kansas APCO Board received information about the application, and they are in favor of giving any extra tools available to the field. She also feels it will help the dispatch centers from not being as overwhelmed.
- Representative Carmichael advised that Sedgwick County has their own system, and he is not sure if this benefits those counties that have implemented similar software through other sources. Nevertheless, his opinion is that since this application is “locked in” at \$1.5 million per year for the life of the platform, then it is a good deal.
- Senator Marci Francisco expressed her support for the application. Furthermore, she believes that we have the support of constituents throughout the state to provide these services. If this can make those services more available, more immediate, and more helpful, then she feels that is what we are being asked to do as a Council.



- Rob McDonald shared that he would like to know about the costs and potential funding before expressing his opinion. Chairman Briggs asked Scott to give a perspective on the cost.

Scott showed the Council what the total costs would be for the RapidResponder application.

Costs

Item	Cost
Unlimited licensing for RapidResponder Annual This cost is discounted 50% in perpetuity Allows Kansas to participate in the development	\$1,456,000.00
Skyline Services – video aggregation One-time Monthly Broadband Circuit	\$198,000 - \$270,000 \$60/camera/month Approx. \$1500/month
Initial Annual Cost for Project	\$1,691,200 - 1,763,200
Annual recurring Cost for Project	\$1,493,200.00

- RapidResponder equals 3.7% of annual revenue and is affordable per the business case

RapidDeploy is offering a 50% discount of \$1,456,000.00 per year for unlimited licensing across the state for the lifetime of the RapidDeploy platform. The Skyline video aggregation non-Recurring (one-time) cost is estimated to be \$198,000.00 to \$270,000.00. This capability brings all the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) traffic cameras, with a monthly cost of \$60.00 per camera, and a broadband circuit between KDOT and Skyline for about \$1,500.00 per month. Thus, the total cost is estimated to be \$1,691,200 to \$1,763,200 for initial NR costs, and a recurring annual cost of \$1,493,200.00. This equates to 3.7% of our annual revenue and is affordable per our business case projection through the year 2030.

Representative Carmichael inquired if Scott believes this application has higher priority than other available NG911 i3 enhancements. Scott responded in the affirmative, because he believes this is a critical element to the overall enhancement of our NG911 system. It puts the data that we have in the PSAP into the hands of the responders, which will improve emergency response. More importantly, in Scott's opinion, it creates an infrastructure that can be enhanced through the Skyline services. As an example, schools could pay Skyline to ingest their security video feed and 911 would have access to that in the event of an emergency. Regardless of the type of video feed, Skyline can ingest it and standardize it for viewing within RapidDeploy.

Steve Raucher, CEO and Co-founder of RapidDeploy, thanked the Council for their time and consideration and excused himself to attend another meeting.

Rep. Carmichael inquired if a Request for Proposal (RFP) is necessary for adding these services.

ACTION Council Attorney, Braden Perry, stated he will investigate that topic with the Kansas Department of Administration. Scott believes this service would be an amendment to our existing contract with AT&T since RapidDeploy is a subcontractor on our existing AT&T agreement. Our contract allows for expansion of and enhancements to the NG911 system. Representative Carmichael advised it would be important to ensure that a contract amendment includes the provision not to renew without penalty. Braden Perry agrees that year-to-year term should be included in the contract.



Senator Rick Billinger asked if the Council is comfortable going forward through year 2030. Scott Ekberg confirmed that the business case projects to 2030 and that it supports the expenditure for RapidResponder through that time. Senator Billinger questioned whether there is discussion or concern regarding increased 911 fees in general. Scott confirmed that increasing the 911 fee is not required from a Council perspective. However, he mentioned the PSAPs may have a different view regarding the 911 fee from a PSAP perspective. Senator Billinger mentioned that there is not an appetite for raising fees. Chairman Briggs advised that a Legislative Post Audit (LPA) is scheduled for this year which will address 911 fee.

On behalf of the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC), Jerry Daniels stated with the explanation of the funding mechanism for this project with respect to county level budgets, KAC would support moving forward with RapidResponder.

ACTION Chief of Police Terry Clark asked about potential test onboarding for this service. Being a non-traditional PSAP, he would like to be considered for a test onboard through his 911 PSAP.

Josh Michaelis made a **Motion for the Kansas 911 Coordinating Council to enter into an agreement with RapidDeploy for the RapidResponder application and for the Skyline Services video integration as presented at the projected cost, pending contract review by the Council's legal staff.** Motion seconded by Becky Snook.

Rob McDonald inquired if the Council has reached out to other agencies that RapidDeploy has worked with as references and find out how their onboarding went and how they like the platform. Chairman Briggs replied that Kansas would be the first. Chairman Briggs also advised that one consideration he had during the initial meeting with RapidDeploy was if this would change how things work now, such as disrupting the mapping or anything else that is provided now. RapidDeploy advised that it would not.

Representative Carmichael inquired about the portion of the Motion that references:

- subject to review of the contracts by counsel
- locking in the base price
- a year-to-year contract that we can cancel or not renew without penalty (termination rights)
- that an RFP is not necessary.

ACTION Braden Perry confirmed these terms and conditions would be part of the review. Chairman Briggs advised that any members who want to be involved in the process and/or want to review the contract before it is signed off, are welcome to do so.

ACTION Rob McDonald added another consideration is for the Technical Committee to analyze the video requirements since transport could be substantial. His concern is the impact to individual PSAPs, overall network architecture and potential cost increase for rural PSAPs that do not have robust broadband connections. Chairman Briggs mentioned that bandwidth increase is less than he had anticipated. Scott advised that since all the cameras are not streaming constantly and the responder must select the camera to stream the video, bandwidth is not a major consideration. He added that part of the strategic plan to migrate to AT&T Switched Ethernet Service (ASE) was to include sufficient bandwidth to accommodate video.

[During the New Business later in the agenda, *Michele Abbott advised that she received an email from Joe House, Executive Director of Board of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) during the meeting, and he requested that the meeting record reflect his support of the RapidResponder application. His position is restated here for context and continuity.*]



Chairman Briggs asked Gayle to read back the Motion, with all modifications including review of the contract by Council members and Chairman Briggs. The requested modification was approved by Josh Michaelis.

Motion amended as set out above to reflect as **Motion for the Kansas 911 Coordinating Council to enter into agreement with RapidDeploy for the RapidResponder application, including the Skyline services of video integration, at the projected cost, pending contract reviews by the Council's legal staff, Council members, and Chairman Briggs.** Motion made by Josh Michaelis, with approval of the amendment, seconded by Becky Snook. A roll call vote was held with all in favor. **Motion carried.**

Voting Members (15)	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Brandon Beck, KS EMS Board	X		
Senator Rick Billinger, Senate	X		
Troy Briggs, Kansas Sheriff Association	X		
Jac Brown, Govt IT	X		
Representative John Carmichael, House	X		
Tony Foster, PSAPs over 75k	X		
Senator Marci Francisco, Senate	X		
Jerry Harrison, KACP	X		
Scott Hilbrink, Fire Chief	X		
Representative Kyle Hoffman, House	X		
Cady (Catherine) Macfee, KCDHH	X		
Josh Michaelis, PSAPs under 75k	X		
Jeremy Rabb, PSAPs over 75k	X		
Becky Snook, KS APCO	X		
Jonathan York, Adjutant General's Office	X		
VOTE: Motion for the Kansas 911 CC to enter into agreement with RapidDeploy for the RapidResponder application, with the Skyline services and video integration as presented at the projected cost, pending contract reviews by the Council's legal staff, council members, and Chairman Briggs. MOTION BY: Josh Michaelis SECONDED BY: Becky Snook PASSED: All in favor. Motion carried.			

5 Administrator's Report

Scott Ekberg presented the Administrator's Report.

5.1 RFP For Security Monitoring Update

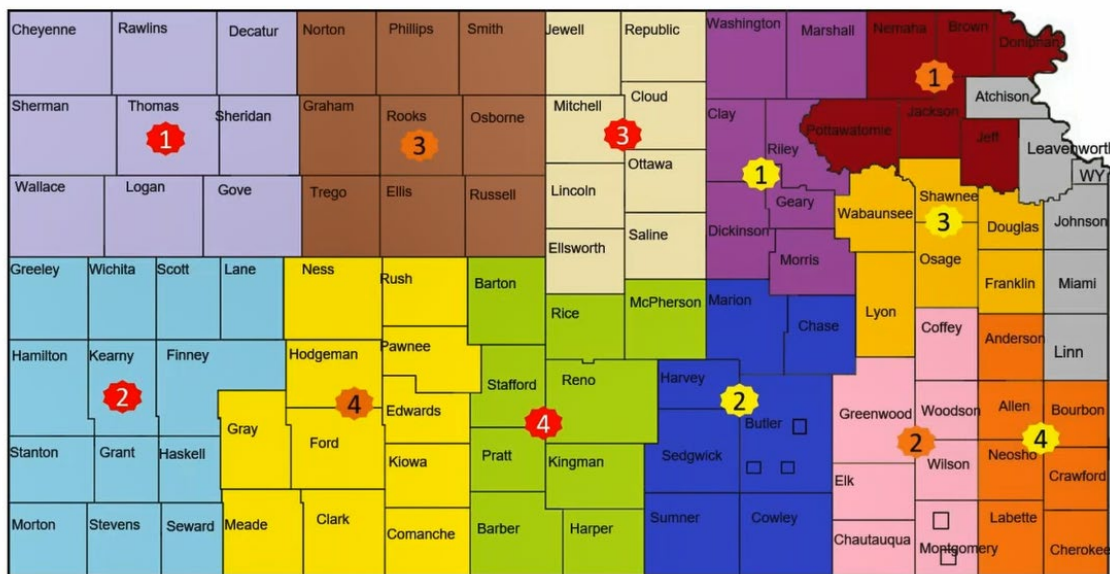
Scott updated Council on the RFP for the Security Monitoring. He advised that the bidding period closes today, June 23, 2023. The technical proposals should be received early next week. There is a review team in place to do the evaluation. **ACTION** there will be a report on that evaluation at the August Council meeting.

5.2 RFP For NG911 Trainer

Scott Ekberg advised that the statute places a duty on the Council to provide technical training on the statewide system to the PSAPs. To satisfy that requirement, Scott proposed that an NG911 Trainer is needed to help develop the curriculum so that all elements of the system are included in regional training and then deliver training based on that curriculum. Scott discussed the matter with the Liaisons, Ellen Wernicke, and Angie Murphy. They do not have the bandwidth to take on that additional work. That would be a project of the Council staff to help the trainer put together that curriculum. Once that is done, the NG911 Trainer would provide a per day cost for presenting training regionally.

Scott presented a map divided up into regions. The training plan uses a timeline to provide training in set areas. For example, one set of area training is delivered the first year, the next set of training is delivered the second year, and the third set the third year. In addition, if there is a new PSAP employee in one of the regions not currently being trained, that new hire could be sent to one of the areas nearby that is having training.

Regional Training



Scott advised that the scope of work for the RFP would include the preparation of training curriculum and the delivery of that material in quarterly, regional training. The RFP would be fixed price based on the daily cost of the bidder including reimbursable travel and living expenses. The purpose of a daily price is if there are adjoining regions that are sending their staff, the session may become a multiple day engagement to accommodate everyone. The contract period of performance (PoP) would be three years with two (2) 3-year renewal options. Josh Michaelis mentioned that this not-to-exceed price is included in our Work Plan and Budget for 2023 as well as our business case through the year 2030. This training proposal is associated with our Emergency Mobile Dispatch and Training Center (EMDTC) project [which is currently scheduled for delivery 1Q24].



Representative Carmichael inquired how the training has been delivered in the past without this additional position, and what change has caused us to need it now. Scott reviewed some of the driving factors.

- Up to now, training has been part of project implementation. As each PSAP has migrated onto our system, a trainer from the manufacturer has been onsite to deliver training to the staff. With implementation scheduled for completion this September, there will be no continuing education and training from an operational context.
- In addition, hands-on training has been provided at the Kansas APCO Conference with a trainer from the manufacturer on the VESTA® 911 Platform alone. However, training on our RapidDeploy applications has been video-based with no hands-on training. This training proposal would provide hands-on training seeing the same configuration and screens as their home PSAP call handling, not a generic layout.
- On-going training is critical for NG911 for two reasons. First, as new i3 applications and features are added, PSAP staff need training in new applications and refresher training with existing applications. Second, due to the relatively high turnover of PSAP personnel in Kansas [and the nation], training is an essential part of their onboarding process.

Representative Carmichael requested clarification of why the Liaisons are not providing training, but rather the manufacturers. Scott explained that during implementation VESTA training was provided by the manufacturer. After cutover, the Liaisons have been providing training to PSAPs on an *ad hoc* basis. In addition, the Liaisons participate heavily in developing and communicating our video training that we offer through the Learning Management System.

Representative Carmichael stated it is his understanding that a large part of why Liaisons are in the field is to provide NG911 training. Chairman Briggs reminded the Council that the primary vendors AT&T and RapidDeploy are contractually obligated to provide training as well. If we accept the new contract from RapidDeploy, training before deployment of that new feature will be necessary. **ACTION** Chairman Briggs mentioned that he will be reviewing this training proposal in greater detail and include the topic for possible discussion during our August Council meeting.

5.3 LCPA Annual Review

Scott advised that the Council, by statute, is required to perform an annual review of the LCPA. The LCPA Review is on the Work Plan for 2023. To assist the Council in their evaluation, Scott uses a scoring matrix derived from the LCPA contract statement of work line-item elements. He includes comments as the basis for his evaluation. He does not see any areas where they are failing to meet requirements. There are some areas where they exceed requirements.

Chairman Briggs inquired if this review is from all the staff or Scott's evaluation. Scott clarified that it is his evaluation based on his experience with the LCPA. **ACTION** Chairman Briggs expressed his desire to push the LCPA Evaluation to the August 2023 Council meeting to collect the evaluation of all staff and himself.



6 GIS/Technical Specialist Report

Sherry shared that we currently have 75 PSAPs on the ASE. The timeline for migrating the remaining PSAPs is somewhat uncertain due to delays in third-party circuit deliveries. That is, there are places in Kansas where AT&T cannot put in a direct circuit. Therefore, they negotiate with traditional Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILEC) and newer Competitive Local Exchange Companies (CLEC) for circuits.

Sherry explained that our long-range objective has always been to migrate from [antiquated] legacy tandem circuits with selective routers to a Point of Interconnection (POI) in Dallas, Texas or Fairfield, California. The reason is that we want to remove selective routers from our network so that 911 traffic can be delivered as Internet Protocol (IP) directly to the ESnet. This removes the selective router, so it is no longer a point of failure in the network. The selective routers are so old that parts and maintenance are hard to come by, even with AT&T involved. By removing selective routers from our network, we eliminate a point of failure in the network. Consequently, the overall Reliability Availability and Maintainability (RAM) of our network is enhanced, and 911 call time is faster.

This was always a part of the plan; however, it comes with difficulty. The difficulty is that the costs to the phone companies go up because rather than sending their traffic to where it goes now, it would be sent to a new location that is often more distance from them. Sherry mentioned that Rob McDonald represents RLECs (Rural Local Exchange Carriers) on the Council. She shared that RLECs in Kansas serve approximately 50% of the land area in Kansas, providing 911 services to those areas. There are approximately 32 small companies that provide traditional wireline phone service (in addition to anything else they may do as a company). They are what is known as a “carrier of last resort.” That is, if a person wants a phone in their area, these small carriers are obligated, because of their telco status, to provide service at regulated rates. RLEC’s have a lot of regulatory protections and a lot of regulatory burdens that other types of phone companies don’t have. RLEC’s own the hardware, which are the telephone lines underground. A lot of RLEC’s can own CLEC’s (Competitive Local Exchange Carriers) who resell other services or resell services from hardware owned by others.

The issue in question is that most of these RLEC’s have little or no cost today to deliver 911 calls. They have cost recovery built into tariffs where PSAPs are billed \$50.00 per month per trunk to the selective router that goes back to the companies that are providing the service. This cost recovery is built in so that if they have maintenance or ongoing costs, those costs are recovered. With respect to the volume of the cost, our estimate is hosted solution wide. PSAPs currently pay about \$22,000.00 per month in total for this cost to both AT&T and Bright Speed [formerly CenturyLink], as well as the RLECs.

When they re-home and stop connecting to the selective router and start connecting to the POI’s, there are a lot of changes including cost. Instead of little or no cost, the new cost is estimated at \$700.00 per month per end office that they have. There have also been estimates, depending on the amount of traffic and type of network, up to \$5,000.00 per month per end-office. Regarding the cost recovery mechanism previously mentioned, that current cost recovery mechanism likely does not apply after re-homing for a few reasons. The first is that the tariffs specifically call out the selective router as a destination. The other is that they govern costs for connectivity between specific types of phone companies, that is ILECs. AT&T owns selective routers in the way that the tariff applies, and they own the ESnet in a way that it does not. It calls into question whether the existing tariffs apply at all to a NG911 style connectivity. Their costs are likely to become very high, and the small cost recovery mechanism will go away. **ACTION** Sherry advised that they have engaged the Council’s legal counsel to



research this matter, as well as the counsel of the RLEC's asking them to advise if there is any other interpretation or documents.

The issue of the cost recovery mechanism not applying has caused questions nationwide and put the brakes on a lot of 911 implementations. Earlier this month, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a draft of a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM). They are accepting comments. If it were to be published as it is currently written, it would mean that the cost of connecting to the POI's would be 100% on the service provider, unless there is some modification for state or local area that would supersede the FCC's decision. We are not aware of any statute, regulation, or agreement in Kansas that would modify the FCC's decision.

If the NPRM goes through, and the local service providers, particularly the RLEC's, become responsible for the full cost, they have a few options.

- **A surcharge.** The first option for local service providers is that they can add a 911 surcharge to customer bills. Particularly for the smaller companies this option is ugly. Kansas currently has a \$0.90 fee for 911 fee. To recoup these additional costs, even the smallest estimate of cost to these TSP's (Telecommunication Service Providers) suggests that some of the smaller companies would have to add a \$1.00 monthly surcharge immediately. They cannot change their rates per the regulation. They would have to add that surcharge to all their customers' bills. Sherry advised that the \$1.00 surcharge is not the worst she had heard. It is not unreasonable to expect that some phone customers would end up with \$2.00 to \$4.00, or possibly more, surcharges on their monthly bill. Some of those 32 phone companies only have a few hundred customers. As an example, if a company only has 200 customers and that company is paying the lowest estimate of \$700.00 per month, that would be a surcharge of \$3.50 per customer, and that doesn't include recouping costs for the company's network hardware or personnel. Although it's not a good option, adding a 911 surcharge is an option for them, which has been confirmed with the KCC and the Council's legal counsel.
- **Find someone else to pay.** A second option is that they pursue another cost recovery agreement. That means the industry in Kansas could pursue another cost recovery agreement, but that would suggest that someone else would have to pay that bill. The lowest budget PSAPs could not afford to take that on. The State budget is likely not very palatable.
- **Close their doors.** The worst option, which has come up nationally, is that they could stop being RLEC's, which means that they would step back or close that portion of the business that guarantees some of our most rural people can get phones. That is a huge problem. However, it bears the question if it is fiscally reasonable to continue providing service if the cost of doing business and providing the first leg of emergency service communication dwindles their profits and eventually even their capability to keep their doors open at all.

These are really the only three options. None of them are good for Kansas.

As part of this re-homing process, we initiated a pilot as proof of concept with Nex-Tech. Their voice traffic is very small, which means it needs very little bandwidth. We are functionally asking Nex-Tech to buy on the open market a standing circuit between their services and California. And then, buy another circuit between their services and Texas. What they discovered was that because their traffic was so small and consequential bandwidth so small, most companies did not even want to quote. Finally, they



were able to get a connection into California, and a connection into Dallas. The connections are not cheap.

Given the many roadblocks, Sherry and Scott started researching ways the Council might facilitate something better. The Kansas Fiber Network (KFN) has a broad footprint in Kansas. Many of the RLEC's are member-owners of KFN. In many cases, KFN is already providing services to these companies that are unrelated to 911, and they already have equipment in the same room and offices as the RLEC's. The KFN is closer than the AT&T interconnect. Sherry initiated a conversation with the KFN asking if the Council bought large bandwidth circuits to California and Texas from the KFN, what would it cost the RLEC's. Early tentative discussions suggest that the Council could have a connection to both California and Texas at massive savings and benefit not only to the PSAPs and the network, but also to the businesses and Kansans.

Initially, Sherry thought an RFP would be required to provide these services. However, she discovered that KFN has a standing contract with state procurement that may provide what we need. Sherry is asking for a formal quote from KFN and asking that they engage with us to develop an architectural and fiscal analysis of the impact.

Scott Ekberg added that one of the additional requirements of the NPRM from the FCC is that all the service providers deliver their traffic via IP. That is exactly the direction we are moving, and all carriers will eventually have to deliver traffic via IP.

Representative Carmichael inquired whether using the KFN concept, collecting the signal and sending to the centers in California and Texas, would affect the redundancy and resiliency for the PSAPs that are at least initially served through the KFN. Sherry explained that we could connect to any of the four POI's but KFN is already connected to California. They are the provider that is doing that service for Nex-Tech. As for the Texas connection, Dallas is just the closest and easiest one from a familiarity standpoint. The reason there are two legs is to make the architecture fully redundant. The way AT&T makes this work is that all calls must be delivered simultaneously to both legs. That way, if one leg fails, the other leg is available; resiliency is intrinsic. With this configuration, the PSAPs themselves would not be in this connection. Their ASE or AVPN and LTE back-ups would be separate and downstream from this project.

Sherry advised that she is planning to work with Kansas Fiber Network to get a formal quote together and an analysis of the costs for the Council as well as cost and saving overall for the RLEC's in Kansas. If it is discovered that the procurement contract does not sufficiently cover this proposed project, then she will likely ask for permission to get an RFP that includes estimates.

Representative Carmichael inquired what the timeline is for this. Sherry responded that once the FCC makes their final decision, she believes there is a requirement of six months for all RLEC's to be connected via SIP and to points of interconnect if so requested. She hopes to bring her final analysis to the August 2023 meeting of the Council.

Rob McDonald, the RLEC representative on the Council, expressed gratitude that the issue was identified early. His company "hauls" 911 calls to Emporia and Eureka via the selective router in Wichita. They are currently hauling intrastate calls. With the new system, his company will have to haul those calls interstate, then back to the local PSAPs; it is this "loop link" that causes the issue. Therefore, this solution that Sherry is working on with KFN - allowing those to be delivered intrastate, similar to



what is done today - would be beneficial. Rob will be reaching out to the RLEC’s in the state as this develops to get their take on it. Rob also advised that he is on the Board of Directors for KFN.

Sherry shared that a couple of other RLEC’s in the state (Nex-Tech and Twin Valley) have assisted by updating her on their situations as they try to understand the burden from this situation. In addition, the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) and others she has spoken with have been very open and willing to explain their positions and situations as she researches this complex and complicated matter. **ACTION** Sherry advised that she put call routing statistics and graphs in her report for everyone’s review. She will provide additional updates at the Council meeting August 2023.

7 New Business

Michele Abbott advised that she received an email from Joe House, Executive Director of Board of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) during the meeting, and he requested that the meeting record reflect his support of the RapidResponder application.

Josh Michaelis advised this is his last meeting as a voting member of the Council representing PSAPs with populations of less than 75,000. Josh expressed his gratitude for supporting the Council of 911 overall and his appreciation for assisting with the development of the call handling system. Chairman Briggs thanked Josh for his service and continued involvement with the Council.

Chairman Briggs advised that the next Council meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2023, 9:00 a.m. for an in-person meeting at the Statehouse, Topeka.

8 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Josh Michaelis, seconded by Jerry Harrison. All in favor. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Voting Members (11)	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Troy Briggs, Kansas Sheriff Association	x		
Jac Brown, Govt IT	x		
Representative John Carmichael, House	x		
Tony Foster, PSAPs over 75k	x		
Senator Marci Francisco, Senate	x		
Jerry Harrison, KACP	x		
Scott Hilbrink, Fire Chief	x		
Josh Michaelis, PSAPs under 75k	x		
Jeremy Rabb, PSAPs over 75k	x		
Becky Snook, KS APCO	x		
Jonathan York, Adjutant General's Office	x		
VOTE: Motion to adjourn the meeting MOTION BY: Josh Michaelis SECONDED BY: Jerry Harrison PASSED: All in favor. Motion carried.			

Submitted by: Scott Ekberg, NG911 Administrator