



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: May 13, 2024

MEETING TYPE: Regular Council meeting

SUBMITTED BY: Chief Steve Perry
CSEC Texas 911 Entity Subrecipient subaward grant contract) Presented by: [Steve Perry Police Chief and
Becky Blanton Communications Supervisor]

Background Information

In March 2021 Congress enacted the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”), including Subtitle M – Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (“CSFRF” 42 U.S.C. § 802 et. seq.). ARPA appropriated \$219 billion to States, territories, and Tribal governments to mitigate the fiscal effects stemming from the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease and pandemic (“COVID-19”).

In May 2021, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 2911 (“HB 2911”) amending Health and Safety Code Chapter 771 to establish September 1, 2025, as the target date for “all parts of the state [to] be covered by next generation 9-1-1 service.” HB 2911 includes new Health and Safety Code § 771.0713 creating the Next Generation 9-1-1 Fund (“NG9-1-1 Fund”) and authorizing it to be funded with “Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Pub. L. No. 117-2) or from any other federal governmental source for purposes of this chapter.” In October 2021, and per rulemaking authority provided in HB 2911, the Comptroller of Public Accounts adopted rule 34 Tex. Admin. Code § 5.408 designating the Commission as the administrator of the NG9- 1-1 Fund.

At its November 16, 2021, open meeting, the Commission designated to its Executive Director the “authority to administer the Next Generation 9-1-1 service fund created by HB 2911.

In November 2021, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 8 (3rd Special Session) (“SB 8”). SB 8 Section 30 appropriates \$150 million CSFRF funds to the NG9-1-1 Fund “for the deployment and reliable operation of next generation 9-1-1 service, including equipment and administration costs, during the two-year period beginning on the effective date of this Act from money received by this state from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund.” Per Health and Safety Code § 771.0713(f), all money in the NG9-1-1 Fund must be distributed by August 31, 2024, and be spent by December 31, 2026.

Budget Implications

\$ 699,123.23

Operational Impact

Enhanced Data Exchange: NG9-1-1 allows 911 centers to exchange additional data and information with responders. This improved data exchange enhances situational awareness and increases responder safety1.

Improved Call Processing Times: With NG9-1-1, call processing times can be optimized. This means faster response times for emergency calls, potentially saving lives.

Multimedia Capabilities: NG9-1-1 introduces multimedia capabilities, including video, text, and telematics.

Video: NG9-1-1 enables video communication. This includes recorded video, live streaming video, and video calls. PSAPs can receive video emergency calls, whether facilitated by Video Relay Services (VRS) or generic video calls.

Telematics: NG9-1-1 integrates telematics data, such as vehicle location, speed, and direction. This information can aid responders in assessing incidents more accurately.

Text: Beyond voice calls, NG9-1-1 supports text-based communication and translation. Text messages can be crucial when voice communication is not feasible or safe.

Alarms and Sensors: NG9-1-1 accommodates alarms and sensor data. These can provide real-time information about incidents, such as fire alarms, gas leaks, or environmental hazards.

Biometrics: While not widely implemented yet, NG9-1-1 has the potential to incorporate biometric data (e.g., fingerprints, retinal scans) for caller identification.

Recruitment and Retention: The changing role of telecommunicators in NG9-1-1 may impact recruitment and retention efforts. Agencies need to adapt to the evolving technology and provide adequate training to staff.

In summary, NG9-1-1 promises improved emergency response services, but it also requires PSAPs to adapt their operations, train staff, and embrace new technologies.

Legal Review

City Attorney Joe Gorfida

Staff Recommendation

Approve the contract between the City of Hutchins and the Commission on State Emergency Communications as a Subrecipient of Next Generation 9-1-1 funds made available from SB8.

Supporting Documentation and Attachments

Grant Application

Contract

Resolution