



League of Kansas Municipalities

To: Senate Utilities Committee
From: Kimberly Winn, League of Kansas Municipalities
Date: February 9, 2006
Re: E-911 Update

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on enhanced wireless 911 in Kansas. The League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM), along with the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC), serves as the Local Collection Point Administrator (LCPA) for the local portion of the enhanced wireless 911 fees. In this capacity, we have distributed funds to PSAPs and provided technical assistance to the cities and counties charged with establishing enhanced wireless 911 across the state.

LKM & KAC Audit Report. Attached to my testimony is a copy of the latest LCPA audit report. The audit indicates that funds are being handled appropriately and makes only two suggestions for process changes. In addition, the audit notes that all suggestions from previous audits have been implemented.

Deployment Progress. In less than three years, tremendous progress has been made toward statewide deployment of enhanced wireless 911. Before the legislation that was passed in 2004, only 5 counties had implemented this life saving service. Now, only two and a half years later, 61 counties are completely Phase II operational, while another 26 counties have at least begun Phase II. An additional 11 counties are working on Phase I and only 17 counties remain with basic wireless services.

Training Services. LKM and KAC have been working to educate the PSAPs that need technical assistance in order to move toward deployment. We have answered hundreds of questions regarding the use of monies and deployment generally. Recently, we retained the services of a well-respected retired APCO professional to provide technical assistance to PSAPs at no charge. Bill Cade works out of his home office in Carthage, MO, and has established a help-line to answer questions and will even go out to individual PSAPs in need. In addition, we are setting up additional trainings focused on those PSAPs that are having the most difficulty with deployment. The next training is scheduled for February 22nd in Hays and is being provided free of charge to all PSAPs.

Legislative Post Audit. We are very pleased with the results of the Legislative Post Audit that was recently issued with regard to this issue. In this audit, they identified only one item that was not allowable under the law and that was an internal billing error, not an intentional misappropriation. In addition, there were only two items that were not accompanied by appropriate documentation. This positive audit shows a determination on the part of the PSAPs in this state to implement this service with great respect shown to the legislative intent established in the law.

There is one statement from the Post Audit report which we believes needs to be clarified. On Pg. 17 of the report, it is stated that on a statewide basis, estimated

wireless E-911 revenues will far exceed PSAPs estimated costs in the future. However, this statement makes the erroneous assumption that all PSAPs will levy the maximum amount allowed by law. In fact, when the bill was established in 2004, it was anticipated that the larger counties would actually be able to reduce the fees paid by their citizens to a figure well below the maximum. That is why the bill was written as a "cap" to be established by each PSAP separately. Secondly, this statement only takes into account the recurring costs of running the system. It fails to take into account what it will cost to upgrade equipment and software over time. It is estimated that the lifespan of much of the necessary equipment is 5-6 years. This means that any so-called "excess" in funds will need to be preserved in a capital improvement type fund so that equipment and software can be updated as needed. We believe that when these two issues are taken into account, it is clear that the revenues received will not exceed the PSAPs estimated costs.

In conclusion, it has been a privilege to work with the PSAPs over the past several years and we are thrilled with the progress that has been made so far. There is a lot of work to be done, but we believe that the PSAPs of this state are up to the task. We are cautiously optimistic that we will see statewide deployment by 2010.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.