

**Subject: Dakota 911 Joint Powers Agreement**

<b>Meeting Date:</b> May 9, 2022	
<b>Submitted/Presented by/Department:</b> Nate Burkett, City Manager	
<b>Action Type</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Consent Item	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion/Direction
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	<input type="checkbox"/> Informational Only
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action/Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<b>Action</b>	
Approve the Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement Establishing Dakota 911.	
<b>Background</b>	
<p>In 2005 the cities and county engaged in a joint powers agreement to establish a centralized public safety answering point (PSAP) for all of Dakota County. The Dakota Communications Center has likely provided cost relief since then for all of the cities in the County that no longer have to provide their own dispatch. The cities and county share in the cost of the entire operation.</p> <p>In the last several years there have been ongoing negotiations to consider the county's cost participation. This amended JPA is the result of those negotiations. The amended JPA makes the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes the name of the Dakota Communications Center to Dakota 911</li> <li>• Phases in increased cost participation from the county over three years; the county will pay for 50% of the fixed costs (i.e. non-operational) by 2024.</li> </ul> <p>Staff does recommend adoption of this JPA - but asks for council feedback on our approach going forward.</p>	
<b><u>Concerns with the JPA and the Policy Consequences</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MN Statute Chapter 403 clearly states that operating and maintaining a 911 emergency telecommunications system is a county responsibility (403.025 Subd. 1). The statute permits but does not compel municipalities to partner with a county to share the costs of those services. Fundamentally - 911 is a county responsibility and in theory, if the city or cities decided not to participate in funding the county would be responsible to provide the services under statute.</li> <li>• 911 services should be considered a backbone service. The current funding model effectively makes 911 services a fee-for-service model. Each time a record is created in the record system the municipality the record is created by or for is charged about \$28. This is regardless of whether or not DCC has any involvement. This funding model has the potential to adversely incentivize behaviors that decrease overall public safety and public safety communications.</li> <li>• Residents in cities pay more for 911 than residents outside of incorporated areas. A resident in WSP</li> </ul>	

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pays for 911 services through their property taxes to both the city and the county, whereas a rural resident pays only once through their property taxes to the county. The rural residents' cost for 911 services is exponentially lower as well because the funding model is based on number of calls, not availability.

### **Going forward**

Staff recommends viewing this amendment to the JPA as a first step and not an end goal and recommends the following as desired objectives for WSP as we work toward another amendment:

- Seeking an overall increase to the county contribution to fixed cost.
- Seeking to adjust the funding model so that all or a portion of the cost of Dakota 911 is allocated based on a per-capita or market value model - which would recognize that 911 services are a backbone service. One that should be paid for based at least partially on availability and not entirely on usage.
- Internally evaluate possibilities to by-pass Dakota 911 and decrease costs and improve service by establishing a local non-emergency hotline and/or maintaining separate records outside of the Dakota 911 system

### **Attachments**

Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement Establishing Dakota 911.

### **Previous Relevant Actions**

### **Alternatives**

Do not pass - if WSP holds out we will lose out on approximately \$20k in savings

### **Financial**

Budgeted:  Yes

No Financial Impact

Fund:

Savings of \$20,000 in 2022

Department:

Account:

Amount: