

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Gregory Scott
Joel Jacobs
Marshall Johnson
Edward Garvey
LeRoy Koppendrayer

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of **Independent Emergency Services, LLC's** Request for Approval of Certified Actual Costs Associated with the **Cottonwood County** 911 Emergency Telephone Services System

ISSUE DATE: March 15, 2001

DOCKET NO. **P5270-/ES-01-294**

ORDER APPROVING CERTIFIED 911 SYSTEM COSTS

BACKGROUND

On May 12, 1981, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) approved Cottonwood County's final plan for the establishment of a 911 Emergency Telephone Services System.

On October 30, 1981, the Commission approved the actual costs incurred by Northwestern Bell Telephone Company for installing an interexchange line to the Windom Exchange for a part of the 911 Emergency Services system in Cottonwood County.

On September 15, 1983, the Commission approved the actual costs incurred by Northwestern Bell Telephone Company for the capital costs of installing 911 Central Office equipment and outswitching trunks in the Westbrook, and Jeffers Exchanges and interexchange circuit to the Mountain Lake Exchange.

On November 17, 1983, the Commission approved the actual costs incurred by Continental Telephone Company for the provision of outswitching trunks for a part of the 911 Emergency Services system in Cottonwood County.

On March 2, 2001, the Commission approved the actual costs incurred by Woodstock Telephone Company for the provision of interexchange circuits between the Delft, Jeffers, Mountain Lake, Westbrook, and Windom Exchanges to the Ruthton Selective Router for the provision of Tandem Based Automatic Number Identification (ANI) services for a part of the 911 Emergency Services system in Cottonwood County.

CURRENT FILING

On August 10, 2000, Cottonwood County contracted with Independent Emergency Services, LLC (IES) to provide tandem based ANI, ALI and Selective Routing services for their 911 Emergency Services system.

On December 12, 2000, IES installed two, each, 10 digit incoming trunk ports for the Delft, Jeffers, Mountain Lake, Westbrook and Windon Exchanges for future connection to the Ruthton Selective Router. IES also installed four Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) ports for future connection between the Ruthton and Jackson PSAPs to provide enhanced 911 Emergency services with Automatic Number Identification (ANI).

On December 21, 2000, IES certified the actual costs it incurred for the provision of interexchange circuits for ANI service in the Cottonwood County 911 Emergency Services system.

The Company is now requesting Commission approval of the actual ANI system costs. Commission approval is necessary before the Department of Administration (DOA) will make payments for 911 system costs.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Minn. Stat. Section 403.11, subd. 3 states:

Subd. 3 (METHOD OF PAYMENT; CERTIFICATION.) A public utility incurring reimbursable costs under subdivision 1 or 2 shall certify those costs to the commissioner of administration. The certification shall be in a form as prescribed by the commissioner after consultation with the public utilities commission. If the commissioner and the commission approve the certified costs as appropriate and accurate, the commissioner shall pay the certified costs from money appropriated for that purpose within 90 days following receipt by the commissioner of the certified costs. The commissioner of administration shall estimate the amount required to reimburse public utilities for the state's obligations under subdivisions 1 and 2 of this section and the governor shall include the estimated amount in the biennial budget request.

Independent Emergency Services, LLC has certified, in writing, that the elements of 911 services and associated costs indicated on Attachment A, reflect only charges for services actually rendered in the direct provision of 911 service in Cottonwood County.

All charges listed on Attachment A are in accordance with the Company's tariffs.

The Commission finds that the costs for 911 Emergency Telephone Service in Cottonwood County which have been certified by the Company are appropriate and accurate.

Policy References:

Minn. Stat. Section 403.11 System Costs

Minn. Rules, pt. 1215.1400 Funding Eligibility/Payment of Recurring Costs

Minn. Rules, pt. 1215.1500 Funding Eligibility/Payment of Central Office Modification Costs

ORDER

1. The costs identified on Attachment A accompanying this Order are approved as appropriate and accurate pursuant to the Commission's March 21, 2000 Standing Order Designating Filings Requesting Certification of 911 Costs As Filings Subject to Approval Under Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, Subd. 7, Docket No. P-999/CI-99-1723.
2. This Order does not approve payment of any 911 system costs. Any possible future approval of payment for system costs shall be granted by the Commissioner of the Department of Administration in accordance with the provisions of Minn. Stat. Section 403.11.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)SS
COUNTY OF RAMSEY)

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

I _____, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That on the ____ day of _____, 2001 (s)he served the attached **Order Approving Certified 911 System Costs for the Cottonwood County 911 Emergency Telephone Service Docket No. P5270/ES-01-294.**

XX By depositing in the United States Mail at the City of St. Paul, a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped with postage prepaid

XX By personal service

XX By inter-office mail

to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list:

JAMES R BEUTELSPACHER
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Subscribed and sworn to before me,

a notary public, this _____ day of

_____, 2001.

Notary Public