

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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IMPROVED 911 SERVICE FOR SAND SPRINGS

Corporation Commissioners approve funding for 911 upgrades

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission has approved a reimbursement of \$25,000 for improvements to Sand Springs enhanced 911 (E911) emergency call system. The money pays the costs of purchasing and installing eligible equipment.

An enhanced 911 system identifies the location of the caller so police, fire, medical or other emergency responders may be dispatched quickly to the scene.

Commission Chairman Denise Bode said the E911 fund is one of the most important safety assistance programs administered by the commission.

"The funding enables counties and municipalities to install and upgrade a 911 system that enables emergency responders to quickly locate those needing help in situations where every second counts," said Bode.

Commissioner Jeff Cloud said in the case of Sand Springs, the money will enable the community to make necessary upgrades to its system.

"The money will fund a mapping interface to more efficiently enter and find addresses in the community. While the mapping data currently exists in the system, it is not accessible with current software and hardware," explained Cloud.

Commissioner Bob Anthony noted the fund was established by the Legislature in the Oklahoma Telecommunications Act of 1997 with administration assigned to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. Its purpose is to reimburse 911 systems for installation of upgraded equipment that allows emergency personnel to quickly locate callers even when that caller is unable to speak.

"Unfortunately, the initial funding is nearly depleted while many systems across the state are still seeking assistance with upgrades," Anthony said. "Perhaps the proposed reviews of changes in telephone regulations scheduled for study can also include discussions of allocating additional monies to this very worthwhile program."

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