

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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E911 SERVICE FOR ALL OF GARFIELD COUNTY

Corporation Commissioners approve funding for 911 upgrades

(Oklahoma City) The Oklahoma Corporation Commission has approved a reimbursement of \$100,000 to help pay for an E911 system that brings emergency-response phone service to all of Garfield County.

The “E” in “E911” stands for “Enhanced”, meaning the 911 system can identify 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 allows 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. “In some instances, it also provides 911 coverage to Oklahomans who up until now have had to go without this protection.”

Commissioner Jeff Cloud said such is the case in Garfield County, where the funds will enable all residents to have E911.

“The Enid police and fire departments have operated a 911 service that covered only Enid,” explained Cloud. “This funding will help pay for the Enid/Garfield County Emergency Call Center, which covers the entire county.”

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 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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