

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
ARKANSAS 911 BOARD
May 27, 2021**

A special monthly meeting of the Arkansas 911 Board was held at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 27, 2021 virtually with a Zoom link and conference bridge provided for participation.

The following members were in attendance:

Board

A.J. Gary (Chairman)	Director, Arkansas Division of Emergency Management
Shelby Johnson	Director, Arkansas GIS Office
Rusty McMillon	Judge, Greene County
Brian Presley	911/Dispatch Coordinator, Independence County
Robert McGowen	Administrator of Public Safety, Benton County
Keith Edmonds	Madison County OEM
Doug Sprouse	Mayor, City of Springdale
Rodney Wright	Sheriff, Saline County
Danny Baker	Police Chief, City of Fort Smith
Tommy Sizemore	Fire Chief, City of Barling
Jamie Pafford-Gresham	Pafford EMS

Executive Director

C.J. Engel

Asst. Attorney General, Office of Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge

Brad Nye

Arkansas Office of State Procurement

Tanya Freeman

A quorum was declared and Chairman Gary called the meeting to order at 2:33 pm and presided over the meeting.

Chairman Gary informed the Board that there was only one item of discussion on the agenda and that is the ESInet and NGCS RFP.

RFP – ESInet and NG911 Core Services – C.J. Engel gave an update to the Board regarding the ESInet and NGCS evaluation group. The process has been worked with the Office of State Procurement and their guidance. Mr. Engel shared the following:

- 7 proposals were submitted in response to the ESInet and NGCS RFP.
- First stage included the evaluation group scoring the 7 written proposals without knowledge of who the vendor was that submitted based on experience, solution, value add, and risk.

- Following the scoring of the written proposals, interviews were conducted in hour and half increments and also scored based on questions given to them by the evaluation group.
- Once scoring of written proposals and interviews were completed, scores were given to each vendor based on bid pricing. Lowest bidder received full points, while others received points based on the average.
- Scores from written proposals, interviews and pricing were then added together and the evaluation group began discussions with the highest scoring vendor.
- Discussions have taken place over the past month including reviews of proposed contract and pricing with legal reviews.
- The evaluation group is recommending that the Board contract with AT&T to provide the ESInet and NGCS infrastructure across the state.
- The initial term of the services contract would be four years with the option of extending up to an additional three years for a total of seven years.
- The initial contract amount would be \$17,002,115.47 with the total projected contract amount being \$29,715,989.95. This price includes a Transitional Data Management Service (TDMS) add on that the evaluation group feels would be beneficial to the GIS portion of the project. The monthly cost for ESInet and NGCS would be \$353,761.79. There are opportunities for those costs to decrease based on reducing connections to PSAPs that choose to migrate to hosted Call Handling Equipment with AT&T.
- The average monthly cost for 2020 with our legacy 911 system was \$280,117.52. While the Board will take on more costs for this infrastructure improvement, PSAPs will see reductions in their costs as legacy trunks are pulled out.
- As PSAPs are transitioned to ESInet, the legacy costs will be removed from current bill and then new contract costs will take place meaning there should not be any duplicate costs between old and new.
- The projected timeline would be approximately 8-10 months for first PSAP transitioned and 18 – 24 months from contract signing to last PSAP being transitioned to ESInet.
- With a strict timeline for turnaround in order for this to be reviewed in June ALC, this services contract would need to be uploaded to the portal by June 1st. There will be a 14 day review period prior to ALC review June 15-18.
- The current amount available within the 15% Fund is \$6,732,250.26. For 2020, the 15% Fund revenue was \$9,150,650.01 with expenses of \$4,517,474.80. Based on the average revenues received for 2021, the Board can expect the 15% revenues to be \$7,185,874.75.

Robert McGowen added how time consuming this process was and that he has not been through this process before. He believes every person in the evaluation group took this process seriously, dedicating a lot of time and focus on it. Robert said that while it may appear to be taking on a lot more costs that with this selection, there is an offset based on what we currently pay that we wouldn't get with other vendors.

Jamie Pafford-Gresham questioned how can we hold AT&T to the potential timeline and is their an exit clause with a 7 year contract. Tanya Freeman answered that the state always leaves in the option to cancel a contract for convenience or cause if needed. Shelby Johnson added that there are certain elements beyond the control of the Board or provider like facilities and would be on local responsibility that could cause schedules to slide for some PSAPs. Mr. Engel restated that we will not be paying for PSAPs that have not been

connected to the ESInet so even if schedule slides the Board will not be paying for those until they are completed.

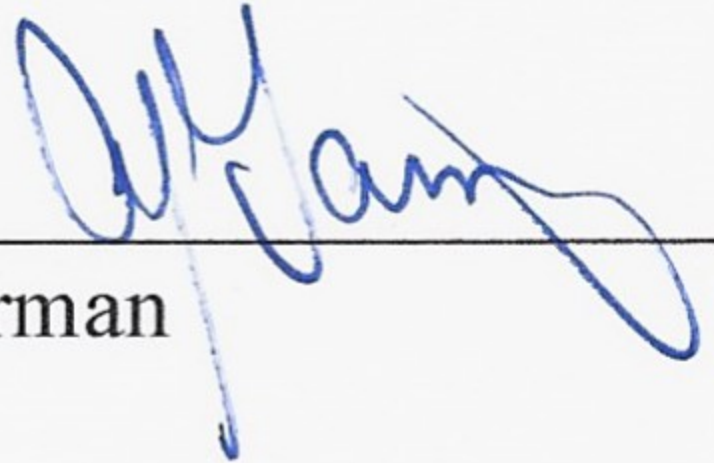
The evaluation team recommends that the Board move forward with AT&T and this services contract for ESInet and NGCS.

Doug Sprouse made a motion to accept the recommendation of the committee and approve the services contract with AT&T Public Safety as presented, second by Rusty McMillon. The Board unanimously approved the motion by vote.

FROM THE FLOOR

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 17, 2021 at ADEM with a virtual option. Information for all Arkansas 911 Board meetings will continue to be posted on the Arkansas Public Meetings calendar as well as the Arkansas 911 Board website.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion by Robert McGowen to adjourn and second by Rodney Wright. The motion carried.


Chairman