



Testimony in Support of House Bill 2084
Ed Eilert, Chairman, Johnson County Board of County Commissioners
Senate Committee on Utilities
Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Dear Chairman Masterson and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners, I am writing to encourage your support of House Bill 2084, modifying the Kansas 9-1-1 Act. Johnson County supports the original \$1.03 monthly fee approved by the House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunication Committee and request you eliminate the amendment passed on the House floor decreasing the rate to \$.82. Johnson County believes that the proposed changes contained in House Bill 2084 will improve 9-1-1 service for all residents of the State of Kansas.

Major proposed changes in the bill:

- Increase user fee from \$.60 to \$1.03 monthly. Sustains 9-1-1 service and funds future features. While this may seem to be a large percent increase, it is \$5.16 per phone annually, to ensure that 9-1-1 service maximizes the protection of life and property for every individual living, working and visiting our state. The fee is below the national average of \$1.20 and Post Audit Committee recommendation of \$1.05.
- Ensures continuation of 2011 Kansas 9-1-1 Act legislative mission of migrating Kansas to full NG911 capability. Meets expectations of Kansas residents to be able to communicate with 9-1-1 in the ways that they are accustomed.
- Provides authority to ensure GIS data integrity. GIS data must be 100% accurate to route 9-1-1 calls to the 9-1-1 Call Center nearest the caller.

The current funding mechanism is not sufficient enough to support 9-1-1 capital expenditures and ongoing daily operating expense of the 9-1-1 centers. When the funding was designed in the original legislation the current technology was not even developed. Future Enhanced 9-1-1 systems must also have the capability to transmit digital information and images received from citizens at 9-1-1 Centers, to the public safety responders in the field, to incident command centers and to hospital emergency rooms. The cost to continue modernizing our 911 systems in Kansas and to pay ongoing operating and maintenance costs will require additional funding to sustain our operations.

The continuation of sufficient 9-1-1 revenue levels will be essential to maintaining and to upgrading enhanced 9-1-1 systems and dispatch center equipment to meet emerging needs.

Johnson County asks for your support to move this legislation forward from committee, including the \$1.03 monthly fee. Thank you for your consideration.