**9-1-1 Advisory Council**

**9-1-1 Grant Program Subcommittee
Thursday, May 30, 2019 • 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**Minutes**

**Subcommittee Members Present:**

Quinn Ness Adriene Beck

Kim Burdick Lisa Kelly

Shantil Siaperas Michael Fashoway

**Members of the Public:**

Liz Brooks Sandra Barrows

Geoff Feiss (9-1-1 Advisory Council Member)

**Department Staff:**

Don Harris Wing Spooner

Rhonda Sullivan

**Improvements and Recommendations List**: The subcommittee continued addressing items on the bulleted list.

**Age of Equipment Being Replaced**: Call-taking equipment usually is on a five- to seven-year replacement cycle unless something is failing. A question could be added to the application form asking the applicant to provide justification if the applicant is replacing equipment that is less than five years old. Applicants should be asked to justify any equipment replacement and explain why it requires replacement. The more information provided in the narrative, the better.

The Advisory Council has the discretion to use “financial need” as a criterion for awarding grants.

An agency’s willingness to transfer useable equipment to another PSAP will not be a criteria or consideration, since this would be a local decision.

**Sustainability**: Applicants should provide a narrative on how they plan to maintain any equipment purchased with grant funding. Questions used on the application need to be standardized so answers can be equally evaluated across all applications.

**Capping Grant Awards**: The subcommittee previously addressed this issue. Rather than a cap, a proposal was made to limit maximum dollar requests to a percentage of the available grant funds, such as 33%. This percentage cap could be established as a hard and fast mandate or the Council could decide to change it from year to year. The cap would need to be announced before applications can be submitted to ensure all applicants are aware of the grant award criteria.

Because the $5 million NG9-1-1 Infrastructure allocation is required in law to be transferred into the 9-1-1 Grant Program account on July 1, 2019, there could be applications from providers or a consortium of counties for ESInet(s), these requests could be for significant funding amounts, so a percentage cap should be considered.

**Funding Maintenance**: Eligible uses of grant funds in law include operations and maintenance, but the consensus is that operations and maintenance expenses should not be funded. Often, at the time of equipment purchase maintenance contracts are offered up front. For example, the Idaho 9-1-1 grant program funds 100% of the first year of maintenance, and up to 80% for the second year.

The subcommittee agreed to recommend the prioritization of new projects over operations and maintenance to ration available funding efficiently and effectively. The Council could also consider putting a limit on the maximum amount of time that funds can be used for maintenance and operations.

Geoff thought it was a good idea to collect more information in the applications to use when considering the grant applications and awards.

Quinn emphasized that the Advisory Council needs to have the discretion to implement additional decision-making criteria.

**Public Comment**: None

**Meeting Schedule**: The next conference call will be June 13 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

**Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.