

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pat Apple at 1:30 p.m. on January 29, 2009, in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

## Committee staff present:

Mike Corrigan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Melissa Doeblin, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Cindy Lash, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Ann McMorris, Committee Assistant

## Conferees appearing before the committee:

Barbara Hinton, Legislative Post Auditor  
Melissa Wangeman, Kansas Assn. Of Counties  
Walter Way, Johnson County Government  
Diane Gage, Chair, E911Board, Sedgwick County  
Bob Boaldin, Morton County Commissioner  
Sheriff Frank Denning, Johnson County  
Michele Abbott-Becker, Marion County  
Kent Koehler, Chair, Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)  
Lyle Wobker, Miami County Commissioner

## Others attending:

See attached list.

Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Introduction of Bills

Chair offered explanation for a conceptual bill to be drafted permitting a Regents institution to purchase from a separate legal entity which is not electrically filling their cooperative electricity generated by wind from a convergent system on property owned by the Regents institution.

Moved by Senator Masterson, seconded by Senator Brownlee, the conceptual bill as described be drafted. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Senator Reitz, seconded by Senator Emler, approve the minutes of the meetings of the Senate Utilities Committee held on January 15, 2009, January 20, 2009, January 21, 2009 and January 22, 2009. Motion carried.

Chair opened the hearing on

**SB 48 - Enhanced wireless and VoIP 911 service amendments, collection and disbursement of certain funds.**

Barb Hinton, Legislative Post Auditor, provided the committee with copies of the Performance Audit Report containing the findings, conclusions and recommendations on Wireless Enhanced 911, Reviewing Implementation of the 2004 Act. She offered some suggestions for the committee's consideration in working **SB 48**. (Attachment 1)

Proponents

Melissa Wangeman, Kansas Assn. Of Counties, noted **SB 48** was requested by the Kansas Association of Counties. Purpose of **SB 48** is three-fold: (1) it continues the funding mechanism in current statute for E911 system expenses for another ten years; (2) it clarifies the purpose for which the fee should be used; and (3) it makes some technical amendments. (Attachment 2)

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Utilities Committee at 1:30 p.m. on January 29, 2009, in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

Walter Way, Johnson County Government, noted the concern of public safety communications officials and local government officials in the pending July 2010 reduction in 911 revenue authority. (Attachment 3)

Diane Gage, Chair, E911Board, Sedgwick County, expressed concern with the difficult position Sedgwick County would be in with a drop in revenue for 911 fees of \$1.2 Million. (Attachment 4)

Bob Boaldin, Morton County Commissioner, described the many improvements made from using this fund but noted there are still a tremendous amount that needs to be done. A large geographical area in Kansas does not have a state-of-the-art PSAP and the lack of this technology affects everyone. (Attachment 5)

Sheriff Frank Denning, Johnson County, represented the Kansas Sheriffs Association, and supports maintaining the existing E911 funding authorization. (Attachment 6)

Michele Abbott-Becker, Marion County, explained that change and advancement of technology now requires an update of workstations on a routine basis (36-48 months). This need to replace the radios that "push" their received information to the first responders will overwhelm smaller agencies and jurisdictions. (Attachment 7)

Kent Koehler, Chair, Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC), discussed efforts of several Kansas agencies to build standards-based P-25 communications systems with the intent of linking these systems with others to create a common, wide-area, share system. Decisions to use the statewide system are based on cost and coverage. (Attachment 8)

Lyle Wobker, Miami County Commissioner, urged the Legislature to continue the current funding mechanism which has allowed local governments to address critical public safety communications needs (Attachment 9)

Written testimony only from:

Ed Klumpp, Ks. Assn of Chiefs of Police & Kansas Peace Officers Assn. (Attachment 10)

Chief Wes Jordan, JCCSA (Attachment 11)

Christopher E. Way, KEMSA (Attachment 12)

Chair opened for questions. Senator Brownlee asked what it will cost to go forward. When this 911 was started there were no guidelines as to cost. Now that there has been some experience in this area, can some statistics be provided. Walter Way indicated there is a report on the fiscal impact which he will provide to the committee. Barb Hinton, Post Auditor, indicated that Lisa Hoopes could provide a report on their current findings on the replacement of equipment.

Jason Moses of the Kansas Adjutant General's Department, Office of Emergency Communications, provided information on the activity throughout the state involving Homeland Security and their progress schedule.

Due to the lack of time, all testimony could not be presented. Chair Apple continued the hearing on **SB 48** to Monday, February 2, 2009.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ann McMorris  
Committee Assistant  
Attachments - 12

GUEST LIST  
 SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE  
 JANUARY 29, 2009

<u>NAME</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>
Mike Murray	Farbarg
Carolyn Coarson	"
Sue Donoho	"
Randy Wadley	"
Claudia Sands	"
Rick Crabill	"
July Gadd	"
Walter Way	Johnson County ECC
Gilene Mosler	Gov. office
Jamie Bowser	Gov. office
Bob Boddin	morison county
Dena Funk	VERIZON
Shirley Allen	KRITC
Kent Koehler	SIEC
MIKE REECHT	SPRINT
Mari Tucker	Dept of Commerce
Nelson Krueger	Sure West
Jacquie Stinegan	U. S. C.
KEITH PANGBORN	KEARNEY & ASSOC.
Drane Gage	Sedgewick County



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**Background Information for the Senate Utilities Committee on SB 48**

Barb Hinton, Legislative Post Auditor

January 28, 2009

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to appear before you on SB 48. The bill requires Legislative Post Audit to conduct audits of the E-911 system in 2012 and again in 2016. State law previously required us to conduct audits of the system in 2006 and 2008.

I would respectfully offer the following suggestions for the Committee's consideration in working this bill:

1. For wireless E-911, a 50-cent monthly fee is charged to each subscriber. Half of that fee goes to the grant fund, which most PSAPs are eligible to apply for. The other half is returned monthly to local PSAPs, based on the number of subscribers in their area. Currently, State law places identical restrictions on how both types of funds can be spent. SB 48 changes those restrictions only for the grant fee, not the local fee. [The local fee restrictions are in 12-5330]. I am bringing this to your attention only to make certain this difference is intentional.
2. Section 6(a) could be removed, because it relates only to the previous requirement for an audit in 2006.
3. Section 6(b) could be changed as follows:
  - a. Dropping the requirement to determine whether moneys are being used appropriately. The bill expands the use of E-911 grant moneys to include operating and communications costs, and removes restrictions against spending those funds for buildings or facilities. Based on our previous audit work, we've concluded that an adequate process already exists for reviewing the appropriateness of E-911 expenditures: the Governor's Grants Program pays out grant funds to PSAPs only on a reimbursement basis, and requires them to submit supporting documentation. Program staff also review the reports that PSAPs submit every 6 months showing how they spent their local fees, and share that information with the Wireless Enhanced 911 Advisory Board, pointing out any questionable expenditures if they see them. Our two previous audits have found no significant issues in inappropriate spending of either grant fees or local fees.
  - b. Requiring that only one additional audit be conducted, in 2019 (one year before the grant fee would be discontinued in 2020). The primary benefit of the audit is likely to be pulling together information on whether the fees established for 2020 will be sufficient to fund local PSAPs estimated costs into the future.

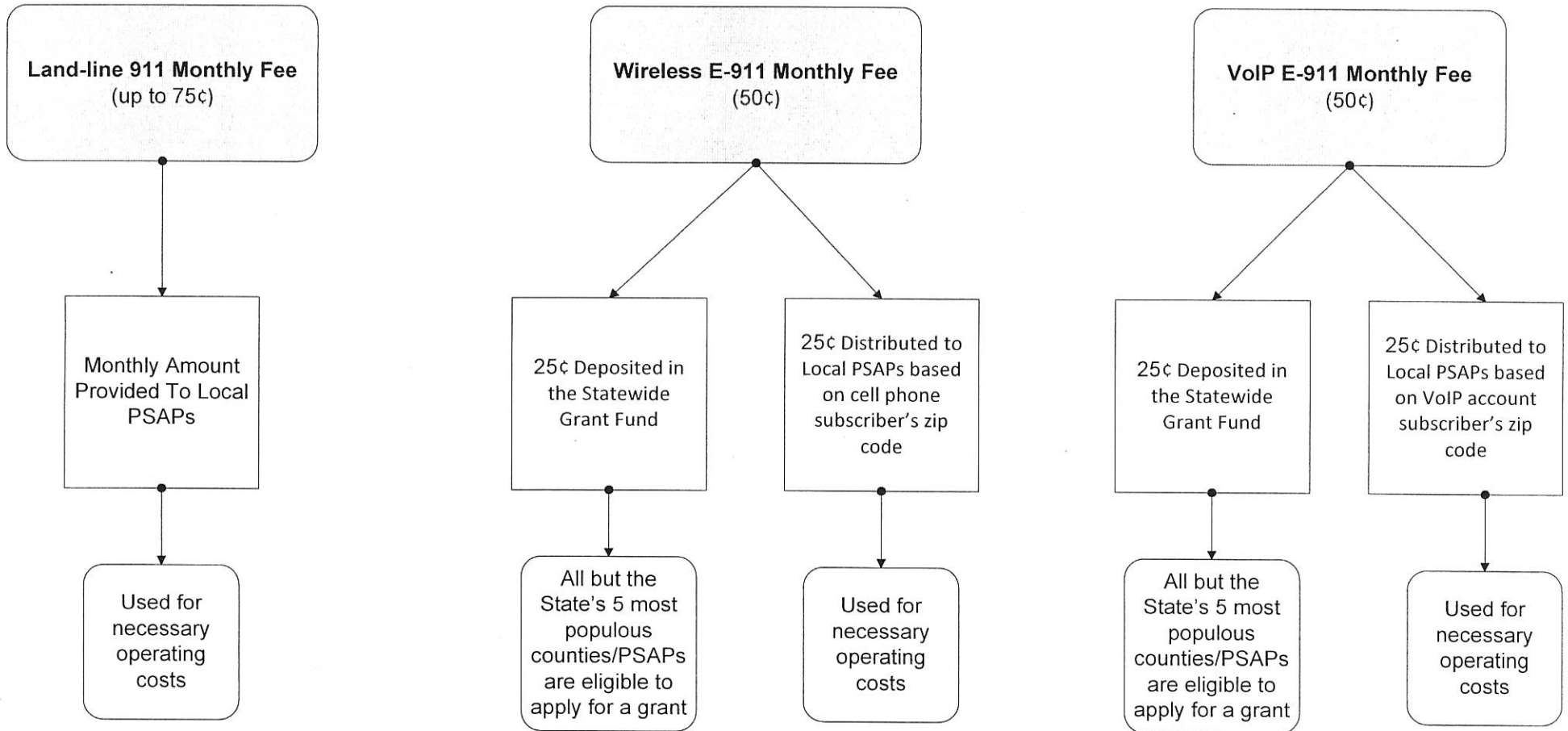
If the changes pointed out in #2 and #3 were made, the bill would be marked up as follows:

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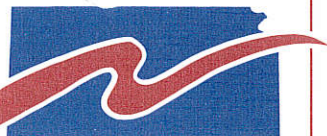


# Receipt and Distribution of Land-line 911, Wireless E-911, and VoIP E-911 Monthly Fees

7-1



TESTIMONY OF THE KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
TO THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 29, 2009



**KANSAS**  
ASSOCIATION OF  
COUNTIES

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

I appreciate the opportunity to appear on SB 48, a bill requested by the Kansas Association of Counties.

The purpose of SB 48 is three-fold:

- It continues for another ten years the funding mechanism found in current statute for E911 system expenses;
- It clarifies the purpose for which the fee should be used, in conformity with Attorney General Opinion 2004-27, and to meet the needs of future enhancements;
- It makes some technical amendments.

Funding Mechanism

Current statutes allow for a fee up to \$.75 on hardwire lines and up to \$.25 on wireless and VoIP services, with this money going to local public safety answering points (PSAPs). Another \$.25 is also paid by wireless/VoIP, which goes to a grants fund. In 2010 these fees are set to change; the \$.75 is reduced to \$.50 for smaller populated counties (under 125,000) and reduced to \$.25 for larger counties (over 125,000). There is no difference between hardwire or wireless fees after 2010. The grant fee of \$.25 is eliminated and grants will no longer be available.

Our legislation would prevent these changes from occurring and keep the status quo.

Use of the Fees

The purpose for which the hardwire fee may be used is broader in current statute than the purposes allowed for the wireless and VoIP fees. As of 2010, all fees can be used for the broader purpose currently allowed only for the hardwire fee. Our bill retains that provision in current law, but adds the new term "emergency communications system" to clarify that upgrades necessary for the next generation of E911 systems are covered. The Attorney General opined in AGO 2004-27 that the hardwire fee could be used for software, hardware and operating costs, but suggested that the statute be written more clearly.

Technical Amendments

The only technical amendment of substance in the bill is a provision adjusting the population cap from 75,000 to 85,000 for grant recipients. This particular amendment is intended to cover Leavenworth County, who is hovering at 74,000 presently. It does not extend the grants program to any new counties.

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An additional technical amendment is increasing the number of audits so as to continue monitoring the use of the money.

Discussion

A Legislative Post Audit Report was conducted this last year and presented to this committee, which helps explain the reason for our legislation. The report found that all public safety answering points (PSAPs) are expected to be fully implemented by 2010; thus we have achieved our goal. Achieving this standard means that PSAPs can receive the cell phone number, billing address and location of the call. The LPA report also found that monies received under the funding provisions of state law were used appropriately--except in very limited circumstances. Although the report indicated enough funding statewide to implement E911 by 2010, the report noted that --when reviewing individual PSAPs--seven would not have enough funding to cover their E911 costs through 2010.

The report continued, noting that future revenues under the 2010 fee changes would lead to ten PSAPs that are unable to cover their ongoing costs. This number grows to 12 by 2013. The report states "These PSAPs will need an increase in allowed fee revenues to cover the ongoing costs of their emergency telephone system" (page 19).

I have attached an outline of other states' fees so that the committee may see how Kansas compares to other states.

The KAC believes continued funding for E911 is a critical issue for public safety. Our E911 system needs to upgrade its technology and equipment to meet both technology changes and the changing ways in which the public communicates in order to ensure prompt and effective responses to emergency calls.

I appreciate the committee's time and attention and would be happy to answer questions.

Melissa Wangemann, General Counsel



**Range of 9-1-1 User Fees**  
 Exact amounts may be adjusted locally  
 (November, 2008 )

State	Wireline	Wireless	VoIP
Alabama	5% of Base Rate	\$0.70	5% of Base Rate
Alaska	\$0.50 - \$2.00	\$0.50 - \$2.00	
Arizona	\$0.20	\$0.20	\$0.20
Arkansas	5% - 12% of Tariff Rates	\$0.50	\$0.50
California	.50% of intrastate calls	.50% of intrastate calls	
Colorado	\$0.40 - \$1.25 (max)	\$0.40 - \$1.25 (max)	\$0.40 - \$1.25 (max)
Connecticut	\$0.37	\$0.37	\$0.37
Delaware	\$0.60	\$0.60	\$0.60
District of Columbia	\$0.76 Wireline \$0.62 Centrex	\$0.76	
Florida	\$0.41 - \$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50
Georgia	\$1.50	\$1.00 - \$1.50	Up to \$1.50
Hawaii	\$0.27	\$0.66	
Idaho	\$1.00 (max)	\$1.00 (max)	\$1.00
Illinois	\$0.25 - \$3.20	\$0.72 \$2.50 City of Chicago	
Indiana	3% or 10% of Monthly Access	\$0.50	3% or 10% of Monthly Access
Iowa	\$0.25 - \$1.00	\$0.65	
Kansas	\$0.75 (max)	\$0.50	\$0.50
Kentucky	\$0.36 - \$4.00	\$0.70	
Louisiana	\$0.63 Residential \$1.50 Business	\$0.85	
Maine	\$0.30	\$0.30	\$0.30
Maryland	\$1.00 (max)	\$1.00 (max)	\$1.00
Massachusetts	\$0.75	\$0.75	\$0.75
Michigan	\$0.19 - \$2.71	\$0.19 - \$2.71	\$0.19 - \$2.71
Minnesota	\$0.65	\$0.65	\$0.65
Mississippi	\$1.00 Res \$2.00 Commercial (25 Lines)	\$1.00	
Missouri	15% of Base Rate	None	
Montana	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
Nebraska	\$0.50 - \$1.00	\$0.50 - \$0.70	\$0.50 - \$1.00
Nevada	Varies by Jurisdiction – Property tax and/or Surcharge (max \$0.25)	Must be equal to wireline Surcharge	
New Hampshire	\$0.64	\$0.64	
New Jersey	\$0.90	\$0.90	\$0.90
New Mexico	\$0.51	\$0.51	
New York	\$0.35	\$1.20 - \$1.50	
North Carolina	\$0.70	\$0.70	\$0.70
North Dakota	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
Ohio	\$0.50 (Max) (Legally limited to a few Counties, no general surcharge.)	\$0.32	
Oklahoma	3-15% of Base Rate	\$0.50 (Approx. 32 Counties)	\$0.50
Oregon	\$0.75	\$0.75	\$0.75
Pennsylvania	\$1.00 - \$1.50	\$1.00	\$1.00
Rhode Island	\$1.00	\$1.26	\$1.26
South Carolina	Based on access lines	\$0.61	
South Dakota	\$0.75	\$0.75	
Tennessee	\$0.45 - \$1.50 Res./ \$1.00 - \$3 Bus	\$1.00	\$1.00
Texas	\$0.50 plus it varies by HRC & ECD	\$0.50	\$0.50
Utah	\$0.65 Local Fee plus \$0.13 State Fee	\$0.65 Local Fee plus \$0.13 State Fee	
Vermont	Universal Service Funding	Universal Service Funding	
Virginia	\$0.75	\$0.75	\$0.75
Washington	\$0.20 Statewide \$0.50 by Counties	\$0.20 Statewide \$0.50 by Counties	
West Virginia	\$0.98 - \$4.65 by County	\$3.00	
Wisconsin	\$0.36 - \$1.00	None	
Wyoming	\$0.75	\$0.75	



Testimony of:

Director Walter Way  
Johnson County Emergency Communications  
Mission, Kansas

Senate Bill 48

January 29, 2009

Chairman Apple and Members of the Utilities Committee:

I am Walter Way and I am representing Johnson County Government and the Kansas City Regional E911 System that serves Johnson, Wyandotte, Leavenworth and Miami Counties and five Missouri counties. I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 48.

Kansas law has authorized local governments since 1980 to assess a 911 surcharge upon wireline telephone services at a rate not to exceed 75 cents/line and to use such funds to establish and operate a 911 emergency telephone service. In 1988, the Legislature amended KSA 12-5304 to authorize the expenditure of 911 funds to fund capital improvements and equipment that includes Computer Aided Dispatch systems, radio equipment and other components that are considered part of the emergency telephone service network in a community.

As cell phones became more prevalent in the 1990's, 911 Centers became painfully aware that they could not locate the rapidly growing numbers of wireless 911 callers who needed emergency assistance but did not know or could not provide their location. To locate wireless callers, 911 Centers needed to upgrade their 911 equipment so that they could automatically receive information on the caller and their geographic location. Such 911 system upgrades required a dedicated funding source to implement the systems and as importantly, to provide for ongoing maintenance and operating costs.

In 2004, the Wireless Enhanced 911 Act was enacted to authorize 911 fees on wireless telephones to fund the implementation of wireless enhanced 911 services throughout Kansas. The Act established a monthly 25 cent 911 grant fee and a monthly 25 cent 911 local fee on each wireless telephone. Local jurisdictions receive the 911 local fee and the Governor's Grants Office administers the 911 grant fees received by state government.

The funding from both the 911 surcharge on wireline telephone service and the 911 grant and local 911 fees on wireless and Voice Over IP phone service have been essential to the successful implementation of enhanced 911 service throughout most of Kansas.

During the past few years, the technology and capabilities of wireless phones have grown significantly. Cell phones now have the capability for Internet access, for GPS services to locate the caller and businesses, for taking and transmitting digital photographs, and for instant messaging services such as "texting". These growing capabilities have

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changed the behavior and expectations of many cell phone customers who now routinely "text message" instead of calling. In the hearing impaired community, "texting" via a cell phone has essentially replaced the TTY for communications with other persons. Young adults use text messaging routinely instead of voice based calls. Unfortunately for both groups of people, they expect to be able to text message their need for emergency services to 911 and have found out that 911 system in place today is not capable of receiving their text messages.

As communication technologies have evolved, the perceptions of the public of the 911 system have also changed. Citizens now think of the "911 System" as more than the telephone call to a 911 center, they also think of the "911 System" as the governmental process that results in an emergency response to their door or accident scene by emergency responders. When a computer glitch results in a lost call in a 911 center or the radio system does not perform properly, the newspaper headlines frequently state the 911 system failed. Because the "911 System" must involve the reception of 911 calls, the processing of those calls by 911 centers, and the sending of those calls and related data, it is important to think of the system as the "Emergency Communications System", and that is the purpose for adding that clarifying definition in SB 48.

The continuation of existing 911 revenue sources will be essential to maintaining and to upgrading enhanced 911 systems and dispatch center equipment. Continued funding at existing authorization levels will be critical for the modernization of existing analog based 911 systems to digital 911 systems that will be required to receive 911 text messages and images from cell phones; to receive telematic information sent from vehicles involved in accidents; to receive emergency calls from OnStar, bank security systems and cameras, and other digital communications devices. Future Enhanced 911 systems must also have the capability to transmit digital information and images to emergency responders, command centers and hospital emergency rooms.

In July 2010, statutory authority for the collection of the wireless and VoIP enhanced 911 grant fees will expire, and for counties with a population over 125,000, the authority to assess a monthly 911 surcharge on wireline phones will be reduced from 75 cents/phone to no more than 25 cents/phone, and the authority to collect wireless 911 fees will be capped at 25 cents/phone. Counties under 125,000 population may impose a monthly 911 surcharge up to 50 cents/phone and may also collect 50 cents per wireless phone.

In the summer of 2008, a survey was conducted by the Governor's Grants Office to determine the 911 revenue and expenditure projections of Kansas public safety 911 centers through the year 2020. The 911 revenue projections were based upon the July 2010 reduction in statutory authority to collect 911 revenue. Based upon the survey data, it was apparent that 911 and emergency communications expenditure requirements by virtually all Kansas 911 jurisdictions would significantly exceed the 911 revenues available to them should revenue reductions go into effect in July 2010.

The impact of the July 2010 reduction of 911 revenue available to Johnson County public safety jurisdictions will have a significant, negative effect. By 2013, only 50% of the \$3.4

million in projected E911 and radio communication expenditures for Johnson County public safety agencies can be funded with projected 911 revenues. Financial projections obtained for other Kansas Counties by the Governor's Grants Office indicates most counties will experience similar revenue shortfalls approaching 50% of projected expenditures for their emergency telephone system networks.

The Legislative Division of Post Audit presented its Performance Audit Report on Wireless Enhanced 911 to this Committee on January 15, 2009. The audit included an evaluation of what level of funding is needed for ongoing support of 911 systems throughout the state. The report noted that E911 revenues will fall in July 2010 when the statutory changes will occur and that revenues for only 911 telephone system expenditures may be adequate for most counties, but at least ten 911 centers will not be able to cover their operating costs in 2011. If radio communication needs are factored into the total 911 system expenditures, the report indicated there will be a significant funding shortfall for virtually all 911 centers throughout the state.

Public safety communications officials and local government officials across the state, from rural to medium to large jurisdictions, have agreed that the pending July 2010 reduction in 911 revenue authority is a significant concern and that it is important to: (1) Extend the existing 911 revenue authority for an additional ten years; (2) Continue the grant fee program to 2020; (3) Provide for statutory consistency in the authorized usage of 911 surcharge and wireless fees, and (4) Clarify in statute the usage of 911 funds for public safety communications systems capable of delivering digital information and images to emergency responders.

Senate Bill 48 does not increase the amount of 911 fees assessed upon telephone subscribers.

SB 48 does add clarifying language concerning the appropriate uses of 911 funds for public safety purposes which were authorized by the Legislature in 1988.

SB 48 does not change the existing statutory language in KSA 12-5338 that states that wireless enhanced 911 fees shall be used for the same purposes as wireline 911 fees after July 1, 2010. That would include dispatch center and radio communication needs that were authorized by the Legislature twenty years ago.

SB 48 does include additional Legislative Post Audit reviews in 2012 and 2016 to evaluate how 911 funds are used and to promote accountability for use of 911 funds.

Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony on an important public safety issue affecting jurisdictions of all sizes in Kansas. I would welcome any questions that you may have of me.

Walter Way, Director  
Johnson County Emergency Communications  
913-826-1010



**SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS**

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**Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 48  
Utilities Committee  
Senator Pat Apple, Chairman**

Dear Senator Apple,

I serve as the Director of Sedgwick County Emergency Communications, the largest Public Safety Answering Point in the State of Kansas and also serve as the Chairperson of the Kansas Wireless Enhanced Advisory Board. Senate Bill 48 supports the needs of both of these entities.

The current statute will create a drop in revenues for 911 fees of \$1.2 million in Sedgwick County. This would put Sedgwick County in a very difficult position to stay abreast of the technological changes being made in the ways the public can communicate to 911 centers and other changes being made in the tools the dispatchers use to communicate with public safety responders.

In 2011, the 800 MHz radio system will no longer be supported by the vendor and will be required to go from analog to digital signal. The cost of this project is \$25 million alone. This does not include the costs associated with dealing with 911 calls from sources other than a telephone.

Text messaging has rapidly become one of the primary ways people communicate, yet it is not possible to text a call for help to 911. The section of our community with communication challenges, now video each other and communicate via sign language, 911 centers do not currently have the ability to support this technology. In the near future, there will be the technology in place to do so and centers such as ours will need the funding to implement the changes.

As the chairperson of the Kansas Wireless Enhanced 911 Advisory Board (KWEAB), I am very happy that ever one of the 105 counties have taken steps to be able to provide Phase II wireless service to the people in our state. However, these same counties will be dropping their hardwire revenue stream from seventy five cents per month per line to

*Sedgwick County...working for you.*

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fifty cents and even though their wireless income will double for the counties under 75,000 in population, they will still not be in a position to sustain the technology they recently added.

The KWEAB is starting to see grant applications for replacement of equipment installed several years ago and some counties are asking for monies for operating expenses. Should the grant fund disappear, there is not enough local monies to fund these projects and costs. By keeping the grant fee in place, 100 of Kansas' counties will be able to draw from a pool of funds of around \$3.5 million annually, of which \$800,000 comes from Sedgwick County subscribers.

As an example of a county which will likely struggle, Chautauqua County currently receives \$6,500 annually for hardwire 911 fees and \$6,046 for wireless 911 fees, total \$12,546. The change in 2010 will be to drop the hardwire fee to \$4,333 and increase the wireless to \$12,092, for a total of \$16,425. On the surface, it may appear they will be better off, but their recurring monthly costs for 911 telephone and maintenance on this equipment comes to \$20,068 annually. They will have extreme difficulty maintaining and using the system we have all worked so hard to put in place. Without access to the grant fund they cannot maintain their current level of service, much less plan for new technologies and replacement costs as computers and equipment wear out.

If counties such as Chautauqua do not have access to grant funds, the system that is currently in place will erode over time and cease to function. My family periodically travels through this county and other less populous counties, they just might need help at some point in time, it could be deadly if they can't get through on the 911 telephone system.

Thank you for your time and would greatly appreciate your support of Senate Bill 48, as we try to insure people anywhere in the State of Kansas and with any technology can get through to 911 services and the professionals handling their "calls" can send the help they need.

Sincerely,



Diane M. Gage  
Director

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for what has been accomplished through this E911 Fund. It has improved the emergency communications systems throughout the State of Kansas, and all police, fire, medical, and emergency systems.

There have been many improvements using this fund, but there are still a tremendous amount that needs to be done. There is a large portion of the population that does not have E911 service. Many improvements have been made in the PSAPs, but now these improvements are becoming obsolete. For example, you cannot get parts to update them. Many of the services are needing upgraded again. There will never be state-of-the-art emergency equipment that will last for a long period of time without upgrades or replacement.

A large geographical area in the State of Kansas does not have a state-of-the-art PSAP, and they never will without the help of a fund like the E911 Fund. There are too many counties that have busy highways, recreation facilities, hunting, fishing, and gas and oil companies. And these counties cannot afford to install and maintain the technology that is needed for E911. Many people drive from the cities on main highways to those recreational locations, and if something happens to them, some cannot tell the dispatcher where they are. Chances are they won't live to tell about it.

This doesn't just affect the people living in rural areas. It also affects anyone traveling through the rural areas. For example, when I have worked in ambulances, we have had many people call in and try to tell us where they were located. They could be in another state, or they could be turned around thinking they were north, south, east, or west, but were actually located the opposite direction.

Our ambulance crew got a call one time telling us there was a two-car accident, and the caller said they were ten miles south of Elkhart, and four miles west. When they were finally located, they were in Oklahoma twenty-four miles southwest of Elkhart.

Too many people lose their lives or become injured because they don't receive emergency services on a timely basis. I lost a thirteen year old granddaughter in this very situation. She lived only seven miles from Elkhart. Her girl friend called for help on her wireless phone, but she couldn't explain where they were located.

On our remote county roads in Kansas, agricultural, gas and oil companies are at high risk for dangerous accidents that require fast assistance.

You may live in your town next door to a PSAP, but when you drive away from your safe location, and head out on a very busy highway, there's a very good chance you may enter into a very poor county that does not have a PSAP, and your call may go high and dry.

I feel very strong that our state should maintain the E911 Funding.

I would be happy to stand for questions.

Bob Boaldin  
Morton County Commissioner

# Kansas Sheriffs Association

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Sheriff Richard Schneider

District #3  
Sheriff Chuck Dunn  
Alternate  
Sheriff Glen Kochanowski

District #4  
Sheriff Laurie Dunn  
Alternate  
Sheriff David Zoellner

District #5  
Sheriff Ed Bezona  
Alternate  
Sheriff Jim Kreamer

District #6  
Sheriff Dean Bush  
Alternate  
Sheriff Tommy Tomson

District #7  
Sheriff Craig Murphy  
Alternate  
Sheriff Randy Henderson

District #8  
Sheriff Sandy Horton  
Alternate  
Sheriff Jim Keath

Directors at Large  
Director Ed Pavey  
Director Larry Welch (Ret)

Date: January 29, 2009

To: Chairperson Apple, Vice-Chairperson Petersen, and distinguished members of the Senate Utilities Committee

My name is Frank Denning and I am the Sheriff of Johnson County, Kansas. I represent the Kansas Sheriffs Association (KSA) and offer testimony today in support of maintaining the existing E9-1-1 funding authorizations to 2010.

In 1980, the Kansas Legislature authorized a 911 tax (not to exceed 75¢) on wireline telephone services to fund capital improvements and equipment. In 2004, the Wireless Enhanced 911 Act authorized fees on wireless telephones (50¢ total - 25¢ to local jurisdictions and 25¢ to grant fees). The 9-1-1 tax and fees have been essential to the successful implementation of enhanced 9-1-1 service throughout Kansas.

Statutory authority for collection of the Wireless Enhanced 911 Act will expire in July 2010. For counties with a population over 125,000, the wireline phone tax will be reduced from 75¢ to no more than 25¢ per phone and the wireless fees will be capped at 25¢ per phone. For counties with a population under 125,000, the wireline phone tax will be reduced from a maximum of 75¢ to 50¢ per phone and the wireless fees will be capped at 50¢ per phone. 2008 survey data shows the emergency communications expenditure requirements of virtually all 9-1-1 jurisdictions should exceed the 9-1-1 revenues available to them should revenue reductions go into effect.

The KSA supports (1) extending the existing 9-1-1 revenue authority for an additional ten years; (2) continuing the grant fee program to 2020; (3) providing for statutory consistency in the authorized usage of 9-1-1 tax and wireless fees; and (4) clarifying in statute the usage of 9-1-1 funds for public safety communications systems capable of delivering digital information and images to emergency responders. Continued funding at existing authorization levels will be critical for the modernization of existing analog based 9-1-1 systems to digital 9-1-1 systems that will be required to receive 9-1-1 text messages and images from cell phones; receive telematic information sent from vehicles involved in accidents; receive emergency calls from OnStar, bank security systems and cameras, and other digital communications devices. Future enhanced 9-1-1 systems must also have the capability to transmit digital information and images to emergency responders, command centers and hospital emergency rooms.

Respectfully,

  
Frank Denning  
Legislative Chair  
Kansas Sheriffs Association

Executive Director Darrell Wilson    Officer Manager Carol Wilson    Legal Counsel Bob Stephan

Senate Utilities Committee  
January 29, 2009  
Attachment 6-1



**Testimony concerning Senate Bill No. 48  
Utilities Committee  
January 29, 2009**

**Submitted by: Michele Abbott-Becker, KCEM**

**Marion County Emergency Commuunications/E911  
Marion County Emergency Management/Homeland Security-Director  
KAC Board of Directors - Secretary  
KS Chapter of APCO- Past President  
KEMA-KAC Affiliate Member**

Chairman Apple and members of the Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony regarding the extension of the existing 911 revenue authority for an additional ten years, the continuation of the grant fee program to 2020, statutory consistency in the authorized usage of 911 tax and wireless fees and the clarification in the statute for the usage of 911 funds for public safety communications systems capable of delivering digital information and images to emergency responders.

I am testifying in support of Senate Bill No. 48.

I represent the Kansas Chapter of **APCO** (Association of Public-Safety Communication Officials International) (911 operators) as well as **KEMA** (Kansas Emergency Management Association). I also speak to the needs of a small jurisdiction; **Marion County** has a population of approximately 13,000.

Several issues pose a threat to the continued success of the 911 system in the state of Kansas.

In the past, we worked with analog phone systems that had base equipment that worked for years. With the change and advancement of technology we have moved to a PC or computer based telephony. With that identified, the requirement to update the workstations on a routine basis (36-48 months) is necessary and required. This includes backroom equipment (servers) and individual computers/screens, etc. at each answering point or position -- a routine cost that was not felt by the 911 centers in the past.

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Operating system obsolescence and software changes demand transition when they are no longer supported by updates and or service.

This need for equipment upgrades will overwhelm a small jurisdiction.— The income received by wireless and landline will not cover this, let alone the reoccurring fees for trunk lines, equipment maintenance and software updates.

As identified by previous testimony, 911 is a system of systems-- beginning with the initial call and ending with the radio transference of information to the end user (first responder).

Upcoming mandated changes will force jurisdictions to meet FCC requirements of narrow banding as well as P25 compliance. These known dates of transition will require all agencies to replace or upgrade their existing radio systems to be compliant.

The smaller agencies and jurisdictions, who already would struggle to maintain a 911 system, will now be overwhelmed with the need to replace the radios that "push" their received information to the first responders.

Simply said, we must have all of the components in place to complete a successful 911 transaction.

The expectation of the citizens of Kansas is a ***uniform standard of service*** from county to county, statewide.

The sunset or reduction of funds on July of 2010 will undoubtedly leave assets that were placed in 9-1-1 centers via the grant fund, stranded. The ability to cover reoccurring costs (trunk fees, maintenance of existing systems) will be impossible for smaller to midsize agencies. It will force some entities back to a Basic 911 system, reducing them from the enhanced capabilities they now possess.

Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony.

I welcome any questions that you may have.

Testimony of:

Kent E. Koehler,  
Chair  
Kansas Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)

Senate Bill 48

January 29, 2009

Chairman Apple, Ranking Member Lee, and Members of the Utilities Committee:

I am Kent Koehler and I am representing the Kansas Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC). I am testifying on behalf of the SIEC in support of Senate Bill 48.

The SIEC is a multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary group that provides policy and recommends standards to improve communications interoperability throughout our state. The SIEC operates under Governor's Executive Order #07-27 (attached). SIEC membership includes representatives of the following organizations or agencies:

- Kansas Adjutant General (Maj. Gen. Bunting / Col. Chris Stratmann)
- Kansas Highway Patrol (Col. Maple)
- Kansas Department of Transportation (Secretary Miller)
- Kansas Chapter of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) (Kent Koehler, Sedgwick County)
- Kansas Sheriff's Association (Richard Old, Lyon County Sheriff's Office)
- Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police (Tyler Brewer, Augusta DPS)
- Kansas Fire Chiefs Association (Bob McLemore, Colby Fire Dept.)
- Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services (Kerry McCue, Ellis Co. EMS)
- Kansas Emergency Management Association (Jimmy Reed, Sumner County)

On September 29, 2008, the SIEC heard testimony regarding the proposed 911 legislation from numerous communications officials, including Mr. Walt Way of Johnson County. After discussion, the SIEC voted unanimously to support the proposed legislation in the form of a resolution (SIEC Resolution #08-01 attached).

Overall, the Kansas SIEC recognizes 911 as a "system of systems" that begins with the initial call and ends with the responder taking the necessary action to protect life or property. The SIEC understands the importance of efficient and accurate call taking to the overall response efforts of Kansas public-safety practitioners. They also recognize the need to relay that information, in a timely and reliable fashion, to personnel in the field.

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January 29, 2009  
Attachment 8-1

Several factors are considered when purchasing or maintaining an efficient communications system including: cost, coverage, reliability, ability to communicate with responders from other jurisdictions, and regulations. Many of the current emergency communications systems were constructed in an era when technology turnover was measured in decades. We are now operating in an environment where technology turnover is measured in years. Certain regulations and industry trends will drastically change the way that responders communicate within the next few years.

In order to free up space in the highly finite radio spectrum, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has required that by January 1, 2013, all public-safety and commercial land mobile radio users in the VHF high-band and UHF spectrum narrow the bandwidth in which they operate by half. Most systems currently operate on 25 kilohertz (KHz) of bandwidth. All users in the designated spectrum must change their systems to 12.5 KHz by the 2013 deadline. This requirement is generally known as "narrowbanding." Roughly 90% of the emergency response agencies in the state operate communications systems that fall under this requirement. Although not set in stone, there is already discussion on another requirement for 6.25 KHz operation in the future.

Although many agencies have been working for several years toward acquiring equipment to meet narrowbanding requirements, many others are still reviewing the functionality of their systems in order to make solid long-term investments. While doing so, they are also considering the ability of their equipment to be interoperable with other jurisdictions. Planning for improved interoperability will create a more efficient response and enhance the ability for multiple agencies and jurisdictions to share common infrastructure. The ability to share common communications infrastructure could potentially allow other resources, such as 911 systems, to be shared as well.

Throughout the years, all facets of the communications industry have begun leveraging digital technologies. Recent examples include the transition of cellular telephone services, and more recently, the transition of broadcast television. Although no requirements are currently in place, public-safety is not immune to this trend. By utilizing digital radio technology, paired with overall system design, public-safety agencies can take advantage of the spectrum efficiency and audio clarity inherent with this type of system. By using the Project-25 (P-25) standard developed by and for public-safety, digital systems can be built to connect with one another to create a highly interoperable system of systems. These systems can provide voice communications, and if designed to do so, integrated data communications in real-time as needed.

Several Kansas agencies have begun building standards-based P-25 communications systems with the intent of linking these systems with others to create a common, wide-area, shared system. As an example, the State of Kansas, through the Department of Transportation, owns and maintains a 76 site statewide communications system that is currently being converted to P-25 digital operations and shared with local governments. Although 39 sites have yet to be converted to digital operations, many agencies within the service area are taking advantage of the multiple-user interoperability and the wide-area coverage provided by the system.



Agencies within the state are considering the use of the statewide system for day-to-day operations. Primarily, decisions to use the statewide system are based on cost and coverage. Some agencies have determined that the statewide system and other similar systems will provide the necessary coverage; however, the end-user equipment needed to convert from their current system to a new system is cost prohibitive within the bounds of current economic setbacks being realized at the state and local level.

Many agencies have discussed multi-jurisdictional sharing of services such as emergency communications / 911, but in many cases, have found it impractical due to the inability to communicate call information over a wide-area and the up-front costs associated with doing so. The cost associated with technology is only one element that needs to be considered in order to share such services. Geography, agency policy, staff availability, and multi-jurisdictional governance must all be taken into account. As each agency or jurisdiction has their own policy and community needs, it is difficult without a specific example, to place a price tag on the overall costs necessary to begin sharing services.

Mr. Jason Moses of the Kansas Adjutant General's Department, Office of Emergency Communications, is available to answer questions regarding the information that has been provided. Mr. Moses is the Interoperable Communications Coordinator for the State of Kansas. Mr. Moses also serves the SIEC at the staff-level.

Thank you for the opportunity for me to present this testimony on an important public safety issue affecting jurisdictions of all sizes in Kansas. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent E. Koehler,  
Chair  
Kansas Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee  
(316) 660-9877

## KANSAS STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### RESOLUTION 08-01

**Whereas**, Kansas recognizes the importance of public safety and protection of public and private property throughout the state; and

**Whereas**, efficient emergency response is paramount to the safety of Kansas' citizens and visitors, and for the protection of public and private property throughout the state; and

**Whereas**, the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) was established through Executive Order 07-27 with several purposes and charges related to the aforementioned, including the charge to identify and recommend future technologies that will enhance the communications interoperability within the State of Kansas, and

**Whereas**, K.S.A 12-5302 et seq went into effect in 1980 to authorize a 911 tax upon wireline based telephones and KSA 12-5304(b) was amended in 1988 to authorize usage of 911 tax funds for "charges for capital improvements and equipment or other physical enhancements to the emergency telephone system" as well as for the ongoing operation of the 911 system, and

**Whereas**, as of July 1, 2010 current statutes provide for the elimination of the wireless and voice over internet protocol (VoIP) enhanced 911 grant fees, and directs a significant reduction in the amount of wireline 911 tax that may be collected by Kansas Counties, and

**Whereas**, the future loss of this revenue will result in insufficient revenues in many Kansas Counties to maintain, operate and upgrade enhanced 911 and emergency communication systems and to implement next generation technologies that will be required in the future to receive 911 calls from citizens, and

**Whereas**, the members of the Kansas Chapter of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) have agreed and recommended that the existing 911 revenue authority must be maintained for an extended period of ten years to preserve 911 services in all Kansas Counties as well as to meet future 911 communications technology service demands from citizens, and

**Now therefore**, on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2008, the SIEC concurs with the Kansas Chapter of APCO and supports statutory amendments that would continue existing 911 revenue authority to ensure dedicated revenues continue to maintain and upgrade enhanced 911 systems throughout the state over next ten years.

This document shall be filed with the Secretary of the Kansas Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee as Resolution No. 08-01 and shall become effective immediately.



Kent E. Koehler-Kansas Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee Chair



*Kathleen Sebelius, Governor*

[www.governor.ks.gov](http://www.governor.ks.gov)

#### **EXECUTIVE ORDER 07-27**

**WHEREAS**, Kansas recognized the importance of public safety and protection of public and private property throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS**, efficient emergency response is paramount to the safety of Kansas' citizens and visitors, and for the protection of public and private property throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS**, emergency responders commonly rely upon radio frequencies and technologies that are often not interoperable; and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of communications interoperability has the potential to create inefficiencies during emergency response and disaster recovery efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, interoperable public safety communications between and within jurisdictions is critical to the mission of public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the attainment of interoperable communications requires statewide coordination and leadership.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Kansas, I hereby establish the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee ("SIEC") with the following purposes and charges:

1. Conduct an assessment to better understand the current baseline of communications interoperability in the State of Kansas.
2. Identify and recommend future technologies that will enhance the communications interoperability capability within the State of Kansas.
3. Create a Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan.
4. Manage implementation of the Interoperability Plan.
5. Create statewide best practices, policies, procedures, and protocols for communications interoperability.
6. Provide training opportunities related to communications interoperability for all necessary and authorized public safety practitioners.
7. Provide that the SIEC shall be comprised of a representative who has been given authority to represent the following agencies or organizations:
  - a. Kansas Adjutant General
  - b. Kansas Highway Patrol
  - c. Kansas Department of Transportation
  - d. Kansas Sheriff's Association
  - e. Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police

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- f. Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs
  - g. Kansas Emergency Management Association
  - h. Kansas State Board of Emergency Medical Services
  - i. Kansas Chapter of Association of Public Safety Communications Officials
8. Provide that the SIEC may designate other members as it believes would further its mission.
9. Provide that the SIEC membership shall be for open-ended terms, and the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be selected by the members on an annual basis.
10. Direct the Kansas Adjutant General to provide staff support for the SIEC.
11. Members of the SIEC shall not receive compensation, subsistence, allowance or associated expenses. Officers or employees of state agencies who are appointed to the SIEC as part of their duties shall be authorized to participate on the SIEC and may claim subsistence, allowance, mileage or associated expenses as permitted by law.

This document shall be filed with the Secretary of State as Executive Order No. 07-27 and shall become effective immediately.

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 212S, TOPEKA, KS 66612-1590  
Voice 785-296-3232 Fax 785-296-7973 <http://www.governor.ks.gov>

8-6





# Kansas County Commissioners Association

300 SW 8th Avenue  
3rd Floor  
Topeka, KS 66603  
785/272-2585 Fax 785/272-3585

## TESTIMONY

concerning Senate Bill No. 48

**re. Enhanced Wireless and VoIP 911 Service**

Senate Utilities Committee

Presented by Lyle Wobker, Miami County Commissioner and President  
Kansas County Commissioners Association

January 29, 2009

Chairman Apple and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony *in support of SB 48* on behalf of the Kansas County Commissioners Association (KCCA) and county commissioners across Kansas.

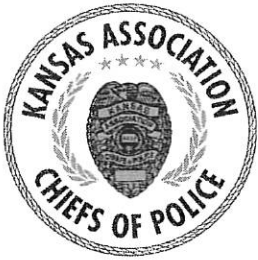
Several years ago, county commissioners, mayors, and city council members joined together to ask the Legislature for authorization to impose a \$.50/month fee on each wireless phone. \$.25 of the \$.50 per month fee was directed to the various public safety answering points (PSAPs) based on the zip code address of each wireless customer. This portion has been administered jointly by the Kansas Association of Counties and the League of Kansas Municipalities. The remaining \$.25 fee was directed to a fund administered by the State, from which grants have been made to PSAPs in smaller communities that would otherwise not be able to purchase necessary equipment and software to accept emergency 911 calls from wireless telephones.

What has happened since the landmark legislation passed has been a big success story. Most all communities are now either Phase II compliant (allowing them to receive E-911 calls from wireless telephones and be able to identify the location of callers) or are in the process of implementing this technology. Most of the progress in this area would not have occurred without the wireless fees assessed to users. In the whole scheme of things, a \$.50 per month or \$6.00 per year per wireless customer investment in personal safety and security was (and is) a small price to pay for the value received. Today, Kansans and visitors driving through our state enjoy a measure of safety that would not have happened without the Legislature's action.

Now, in 2009, we are back in front of the Legislature asking to continue the current funding mechanism which has allowed local governments to address critical public safety communications needs. We ask that the current \$.50 per month per wireless line fee be retained and that the local governments responsible for these services be allowed to use these funds not only for capital improvements and equipment but also for operating costs or other enhancements to the emergency telephone and communications system. This will allow emergency responders and the public to communicate with dispatchers and vice versa, and allow us to maintain and upgrade our systems as required. The move to implement enhanced E-911, while significant, is not over. It is now our responsibility to maintain and upgrade the systems as technology and public safety needs change. We live in a dynamic time with technology and we cannot afford to think we will not need to continue to improve our capacity. The Kansas County Commissioners Association urges you to report SB 48 favorably.

Senate Utilities Committee  
January 29, 2009  
Attachment 9-1





**Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police**

PO Box 780603, Wichita, KS 67278 (316)733-7301

**Kansas Peace Officers Association**

PO Box 2592, Wichita, KS 67201 (316)722-8433



Testimony to the Senate Utilities Committee  
In Support of SB 48  
E-911 Fees and Systems

January 29, 2009

The Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police and the Kansas Peace Officers Association strongly supports the provisions of SB 48. The technology advances available today in communications systems can greatly enhance public safety and emergency responses. Many areas of the nation are incorporating the ability to receive cell phone video and text messaging into their 911 systems with great success. Emergency communication systems are migrating from analog to digital transmissions. It is imperative that our 911 systems keep up with the advancing technology. Like any technology capability it has to be kept up to date. 911 and other emergency communications systems cannot be installed and expected to not be replaced in a normal life cycle period we have all become accustomed to in today's electronics and computerized systems.

As the state continues to delay and cut payments the local governments have received in the past, local funds available to support these systems are also shrinking. The extension of the 911 fees does not create a new funding burden on the public. It merely keeps the funding source needed for these projects.

Others have or will present data showing the growing need for increased funding for these systems and the anticipated future funding gaps. While this bill does not propose increasing the fees, there certainly is justification to do so. There will still be a need for many areas to supplement this funding to acquire and maintain quality emergency communications systems. It is clear any loss or reductions in these fees will negatively impact the ability to maintain, replace, and enhance existing systems. These fees are vital to emergency services providers to receive and relay vital emergency response information to the first responders.

We urge you to support this bill and, at a minimum, continue the existing funding levels, extend the grant program, and provide funding support to 911 and other related emergency communications systems.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Klumpp".

Ed Klumpp  
Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police-Legislative Committee Chair  
Kansas Peace Officers Association-Legislative Committee Chair

E-mail: eklumpp@cox.net  
Phone: (785) 235-5619  
Cell: (785) 640-1102


Senate Utilities Committee  
January 29, 2009  
Attachment 10-1

11

# Johnson County Police Chiefs' and Sheriffs' Association

10 Crescent Boulevard, Lake Quivira, Kansas 66217-8401  
Phone: 913/631-5300 Fax: 913/631-5761 Email: burdel@sbcglobal.net



**DATE:** January 23, 2009  
**TO:** Senator Pat Apple and Members of the Utilities Committee  
**FROM:** Chief Wes Jordan  
JCCSA President   
**SUBJECT:** SENATE BILL 48

On behalf of the Johnson County Kansas Police Chiefs' and Sheriffs' Association (JCCSA), I urge your support of Senate Bill 48. Our Association was formally organized in 1962 to share information and ideas, coordinate matters of mutual concern, and provide professional law enforcement services. We can all appreciate the economic uncertainty our cities, counties, and State must face while balancing the demand for providing critical services to our communities with shrinking resources.

The most vital communication link we have is 911 and we cannot afford to reduce funding due to on-going changes in commercial communication technologies. At the risk of being repetitive, continued funding at existing authorization levels will be critical for the modernization of existing analog-based 911 systems to digital 911 systems that will be required to receive 911 text messages and images from cell phones and electronic devices. The dual edge of technology has certainly benefited law enforcement while also causing many challenges -- we must be prepared to meet those challenges with adequate funding.

In summation, the JCCSA has agreed the pending July 2010 reduction in 911 revenue authority is a significant issue. We respectfully urge you to:

- (1) Extend the existing 911 revenue authority for an additional ten years;
- (2) Continue the grant fee program to 2020;
- (3) Provide for statutory consistency in the authorized usage of 911 tax and wireless fees, and
- (4) Clarify in statute the use of 911 funds for public safety communications systems capable of delivering information and images to emergency responders.

WLJ:jlw

Senate Utilities Committee  
January 29, 2009  
Attachment 11-1



Box 441  
Clay Center, Kansas 67432

(785) 447-0416 • Fax (785) 632-6050  
<http://www.kemsa.org>

January 23, 2009

Kansas Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials  
ATTN: Walt Way  
6000 Lamar  
Mission, KS 66202

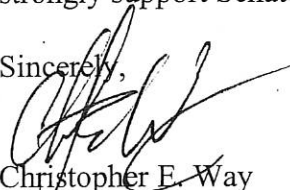
To Whom It May Concern:

The Kansas EMS Association and its Board of Directors would like to strongly support the passage of Senate Bill 48 regarding E911 service in Kansas. As you all know Emergency Medical Services play a vital role in the public safety of the citizens of Kansas. In order to perform our mission we depend heavily on the ability to obtain pertinent, reliable information from emergency communication centers and the highly trained people in those centers.

Senate Bill 48 would allow for a 10 year extension of the existing level of E911 funding. We also advocate for statutory amendments that will provide for consistency in the use of wireline, wireless and VoIP 911 revenues and that will clarify that such funds can be used for public safety equipment and systems that are used to receive, process and transmit emergency calls and digital information to emergency responders.

As you would imagine all of the issues mentioned above are concerns for the Kansas EMS Association, its 1,400 members and the 117 services that we represent. Again, we strongly support Senate Bill 48 and encourage its hasty passage.

Sincerely,



Christopher E. Way  
President-Elect

Jon Friesen  
President

John Hultgren  
Past-President

Christopher Way  
President-Elect

Chy Miller  
Vice-President

Senate Utilities Committee  
January 29, 2009  
Attachment 12-1

"UNITY IS STRENGTH"