



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Phil Montgomery, Chairperson
Eric Callisto, Commissioner
Ellen Nowak, Commissioner

610 North Whitney Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

To: Members, Legislative Council Study Committee on 911 Emergency Communications

From: Elise Nelson, Legislative Advisor, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Date: August 1, 2012

Re: 911 emergency communication funding sources

Currently, customers pay for 911 emergency communications and other state expenses on several utility bills.

Landline surcharge for 911 communications

All landline telecommunications customers pay up to \$.40 per line, per month, surcharge for 911 communications. This fee is not charged to customers using wireless communications, Voice over Internet Protocol technology, and others.

Police and Fire Protection Fee

The "PPF" appears on the bill of all telecommunications customers (including wireless and Voice over Internet Protocol technologies). Customers are charged \$.75 per month for "police and fire protection"; however, these funds are sent to the state and returned to municipalities in the form of shared revenue, and are in no way earmarked for 911 emergency communications.

Fire Protection Fee

Prior to 1988, municipalities recovered the fire protection fee through the tax levy. In 1988, legislation was enacted giving the governing body of any city, village, or town the option of collecting the fee either through the tax levy or as a direct charge on general service water customer bills, or as a combination of the two. As some municipalities approach their levy limit, they have begun charging the fee on water bills without making corresponding cuts to property tax bills.

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin looks forward to assisting the committee as it continues its work to strengthen 911 emergency communications. Please use this memo for your reference and also feel free to contact me directly at 608-267-3589 or Elise.Nelson@wisconsin.gov should you have any questions.