

Urgent News

The deadline is approaching for “911” dispatch centers to apply for grants for the addition of wireless “911” functionality. As you are aware the Public Service Commission has established rules for the implementation of the new law. The rules strongly favor county PSAPS as the source of wireless “911” answering points in each county. However, the law and rules still allow municipal PSAPS to apply for funding. For some reason there is a perception that municipal PSAPS have been removed from the funding program. Without a doubt the PSC rules make the application process very difficult for municipal PSAPS. We must meet standards and justifications not required of the county centers. The rules also require that our grant applications be submitted through the county as a “Supplemental Grant” application.

Any information that you may have received indicating that municipal centers are not authorized to apply for the grants is in error. I attended a PSC meeting on January 25, 2005, on behalf of the WCPA. The purpose of the meeting was to answer questions that attendees might have reference the application process. I questioned how PSAPS around the state were to be notified about the grant program. I was advised that county PSAPS would get a call from the PSC. I was further advised that municipal PSAPS would not be notified and would have to rely of the county centers to notify us if they chose to do so.

The deadline for the applications is April 1, 2005. The applications will be available February 1, 2005. They will only available on line at the PSC website and must be submitted on line to be accepted. The applications are extensive for municipal centers do to the extraordinary justifications we must submit as part of the application. The draft application rules follow.