

## SCOPE STATEMENT

### **Wireless Enhanced 911: Reviewing Implementation of the 2004 Act**

The 2004 Legislature passed the Wireless Enhanced 911 Act to provide funding for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPS) to establish wireless E-911 telephone service. Financing for these improvements come from a 25¢ local fee and a 25¢ grant fee assessed monthly on all wireless subscriber accounts, and a 1% grant fee assessed on the retail price of prepaid wireless service. The fees are collected by wireless carriers and by wholesalers of prepaid wireless service.

The Kansas Association of Counties and the League of Kansas Municipalities administer the local fees, and are responsible for disbursing these revenues to local units of government based on subscriber zip codes. Jointly the two agencies are allowed to retain up to 2% of the local fees for administration. The Secretary of Administration oversees grants to local units, and is allowed to use up to 5% of the money generated from grant fees for administrative costs, including costs incurred by the E-911 Advisory Board.

The Act required Legislative Post Audit to conduct an audit of the wireless enhanced 911 service system during calendar year 2006 to determine whether local units of government are using moneys received under this act appropriately, whether the amount of money being collected is adequate, the status of implementation, and the need and level of continued funding of the system.

Among the findings of the audit were that moneys were generally being used appropriately and that on a Statewide basis, revenues would far exceed costs. However, the audit showed that some answering points wouldn't have enough money to cover costs through 2010 or to cover their ongoing operating expenses after 2010.

The Act calls for another similar audit to be completed prior to the commencement of the 2009 legislative session that includes not only the enhanced 911 service system but the Voice-over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and the land line emergency telephone service systems as well.

A performance audit would answer the following questions:

- 1. What is the status of implementation of wireless enhanced 911 and Voice-over Internet Protocol systems?** To answer this question, we would review spending and accomplishment reports that answering points submit to the Department of Administration for local fee moneys and grant moneys. In addition, we would survey answering points and conduct site visits as necessary to obtain specific information on what they have left to do, when they expect to be done, and the reasons for any delays. We would use this information to prepare an inventory showing implementation status for each answering point, as well as an assessment of overall State progress, areas of greatest delays, and an estimate of when full implementation will be accomplished Statewide.
- 2. Are moneys received pursuant to the Enhanced 911 Act and the Voice-over Enhanced**

**911 Act being used appropriately?** To answer this question, we would review State statutes to identify allowable uses for wireless enhanced 911 and Voice-over Internet Protocol moneys. We would review and summarize the detailed purchasing reports and grant expenditure reports submitted to the Department of Administration to identify broad categories of spending. To assess the accuracy of this self-reported spending, we would look at the grant compliance reviews that have been conducted, and for a sample of answering points, we would review documentation of purchases made with local fee moneys to see if those purchases were for allowed uses. We would conduct additional work as needed.

- 3. Is the amount of money being collected to fund the implementation of wireless enhanced 911, Voice-over Internet Protocol adequate, and what level of funding is needed for ongoing support of those systems and for land line emergency services?** To determine whether the amount of money being collected is adequate, we would analyze the answering points that have not yet completed implementation of wireless enhanced 911 or Voice-over Internet Protocol. We would obtain their cost estimates for the work that remains to be done, and compare that to the local fee moneys on hand and available over the next few years as well as the to grant fee moneys for which they might qualify. In addition, we would compare their proposed expenses to those of answering points that have completed implementation, to see if unreasonable expenses might be contributing to delays. To determine the level of ongoing funding needed after implementation, we would review the types and amounts of ongoing expense that answering points that have completed implementation are incurring to maintain their systems. We would compare that to the amount of funding they receive from the current local fee. We would conduct additional work as needed.

**Estimated Time To Complete:** 11-13 weeks