



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 16, 2026

DATE: May 22, 2026

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Quinn Korbolic, Information Technology Manager
Technology Services, 775-328-2348, qkorbolic@washoecounty.gov
On behalf of 911 Emergency Response Advisory Committee

THROUGH: Behzad Zamanian, Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve a Fiscal Year 2025/2026 unbudgeted transfer of \$1,892,323.36 from the Enhanced 911 Fund to the Capital Improvements Fund to support Washoe County's portion of the Nevada Shared Radio System P25 Project for microwave backhaul equipment, installation and implementation services, which will support direct communication between Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and first responders; as recommended by the 911 Emergency Response Advisory Committee on May 21, 2026; and, if approved, direct Comptroller to complete the journal entry and net-zero, cross-fund unbudgeted transfer. (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Washoe County, through the Washoe County Regional Communication System (WCRCS), operates a public safety radio communication network that serves public safety, law enforcement and emergency response organizations in the region. The WCRCS is part of the Nevada Shared Radio System (NSRS) which serves as the primary public safety radio communications system in the state of Nevada. Washoe County and NSRS partners, the Nevada Department of Transportation and NV Energy, are currently working to replace and upgrade legacy radio equipment with open-standards-based Project 25 (P25) radio equipment. As part of the NSRS P25 system upgrade, the microwave backhaul network is also being upgraded. The planned microwave network in Washoe County's radio system service area connects mountain-top radio sites to the rest of the radio network in the state, enabling radio communication from anywhere in the state of Nevada. The microwave network is also a critical part of radio communications for 911 Communication Centers or Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP). Each PSAP is connected through the microwave network to the entire NSRS. 911 dispatch console radio communications rely on and would not work without the microwave network.

Nevada Revised Statutes (244A.7645) permit utilization of 911 Surcharge funds for "Purchasing, leasing or renting the equipment and software necessary to operate the enhanced telephone system." The definition of "Telephone System," per NRS 244A 7641, includes "Technology, facilities or equipment used for transmitting information from an emergency

responder to the user or from the user to an emergency responder.” The microwave network in question is a key part of the Telephone System for reporting emergencies because it is technology and equipment used for transmitting information from an emergency responder to an emergency dispatcher (user) or from an emergency dispatcher (user) to an emergency responder. Similarly, NRS 244A.7645 authorizes use of 911 Funds “To pay any costs associated with the construction, maintenance or operation of the portion of a facility that contains a telephone system for reporting an emergency and will be physically occupied by and functionally dedicated to the operation of such a telephone system.”

Staff recommends approval of a Fiscal Year 2025/2026 interfund, unbudgeted transfer of \$1,892,323.36 from the Enhanced 911 Fund to the Capital Improvements Fund to support Washoe County’s portion of the Nevada Shared Radio System P25 Project for microwave equipment, installation and implementation services which will support direct communication between Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and first responders; as recommended by the 911 Emergency Response Advisory Committee on May 21, 2026.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Fiscal Sustainability

PREVIOUS ACTION

On March 24, 2025, the Board approved and ratified the First Addendum to the P25 Radio System Interlocal Agreement, June 2020. The addendum specifically addressed increased construction costs associated with the P25 Radio System, which have increased by \$3,963,706 since the execution of the P25 Radio System Interlocal Agreement. The addendum specifies the shared financial responsibility among Partner Agencies ensuring that each entity contributes proportionately based on their usage of the system.

On May 14, 2024, the Board approved and signed a lease agreement between Washoe County and Desert View Commercial Properties, LLC for the County to rent real property known as East Red Peak (APN 502-250-07) for the purpose of constructing, installing, and operating a communications site for the NSRS. The lease has a 10-year term beginning July 1, 2024, with an option to renew for an additional ten years.

On May 26, 2020, the Board accepted and ratified the Washoe County Regional Communication System P25 Radio System Interlocal Agreement which establishes an operational and management structure that provides the opportunity for signing agencies to participate in the ongoing governance, administration and management of the P25 Radio System; and a framework to allocate costs of the system to signing agencies proportionate to their use of the radio system.

On September 25, 2018, the Board approved the System Purchase Agreement between Washoe County and Harris Corporation, Communications System Segment, in the amount of \$26,537,510.68; and authorized the Washoe County Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the agreement.

On May 9, 2017, the Board approved and directed the County Manager to sign the Nevada Shared Radio System Contract between the NDOT, NV Energy, and Washoe County, as recommended by the Joint Operating Committee of the Washoe County Regional Communications System (WCRCs). This action established the interagency partnership and governance structure for the statewide NSRS upgrade, which underpins all subsequent site development and procurement actions.

The Board's actions reflect a strategic commitment to enhancing public safety communications infrastructure through collaborative governance and financial responsibility. These decisions align with the Washoe County Strategic Objective(s) of Fiscal Sustainability and fostering Safe, Secure, and Healthy Communities by partnering with regional and statewide agencies to share the cost-burden of building and upgrading these important public safety systems; and ensuring robust communication systems for emergency services.

BACKGROUND

The NSRS P25 project is a multi-year, multi-agency initiative to modernize and expand public safety communications infrastructure across Washoe County and the State of Nevada. The NSRS is a collaborative partnership among Washoe County, NDOT, and NV Energy, each of which owns and operates a portion of the statewide radio network. The system is designed to provide interoperable, reliable communications for first responders, public safety agencies, and critical infrastructure operators throughout the region; to support daily operations for various public agencies; and to provide coordinated response in cases of emergencies and disasters.

The origins of the NSRS date back to the late 1990s, when Washoe County and other regional partners established the WCRCS to address the need for shared radio infrastructure and coordinated governance. Over time, the WCRCS and its partners recognized the limitations of the legacy Enhanced Digital Access Communications System (EDACS), which had reached end-of-life status and was no longer supported by the manufacturer. This situation created significant operational risks, including the inability to obtain replacement parts, software updates, or technical support, and limited the system's capacity to accommodate new users or evolving public safety requirements.

In response, Washoe County, NDOT, and NV Energy undertook a comprehensive planning and procurement process to replace the aging system with a modern, standards-based solution. The partners executed an interlocal agreement in 2017 to formalize the governance structure for the NSRS and to coordinate the procurement of a new Project 25 (P25) Phase II radio system, which is recognized as the national standard for public safety communications. Following a competitive request for proposals administered by NDOT, L3Harris was selected as the system vendor. Each partner agency entered into a separate System Purchase Agreement with L3Harris in 2018, establishing the contractual framework for the design, construction, and implementation of the new statewide system.

As part of Washoe County's portion of the NSRS P25 system upgrade, the microwave backhaul network is also being upgraded. The planned microwave network in Washoe County's radio system service area connects mountain-top radio sites to the rest of the radio network in the state, enabling radio communication from anywhere in the state of Nevada. The microwave network is also a critical part of radio communications for 911 Communication Centers or Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP). Each PSAP is connected through the microwave network to the entire NSRS. Public safety communication specialists (911 dispatchers) communicate to first responders through the NSRS radio system that relies on and would not work without the microwave backhaul network.

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 244A.7645 provides direction for use of 911 Surcharge Fees: If a surcharge is imposed in a county pursuant to NRS 244A.7643, the board of county commissioners of that county shall create a special revenue fund of the county for the deposit

of the money collected pursuant to NRS 244A.7643. The money in the fund must be used only:

- a. To pay the costs of adopting and reviewing the 5-year master plan for the enhancement of the telephone system for reporting emergencies in the county that is required pursuant to NRS 244A.7643.
- b. With respect to the telephone system for reporting an emergency:
 - 1. In a county whose population is 52,000 or more, to enhance the telephone system for reporting an emergency, including only:
 - (I) Paying recurring and nonrecurring charges for telecommunication services necessary for the operation of the enhanced telephone system;
 - (II) Paying costs for personnel and training associated with the routine maintenance and updating of the database for the system;
 - (III) Purchasing, leasing or renting the equipment and software necessary to operate the enhanced telephone system, including, without limitation, equipment and software that identify the number or location from which a call is made; and
 - (IV) Paying costs associated with any maintenance, upgrade and replacement of equipment and software necessary for the operation of the enhanced telephone system.
- c. To pay any costs associated with the construction, maintenance or operation of the portion of a facility that contains a telephone system or reporting an emergency and will be physically occupied by and functionally dedicated to the operation of such a telephone system.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the Board approve the unbudgeted transfer of \$1,892,323.36 in FY26 from the Enhanced 911 Fund (208) to the Capital Improvements Fund (402), the transfer will support the Nevada Shared Radio System P25 Project for microwave equipment, installation and implementation services for microwave links necessary for communication between PSAPs and emergency responders, an unbudgeted transfer will be processed as a journal entry outlined below:

Unbudgeted Transfer/JE:

Fund/Function	Cost Object & Description	G/L Account & Description	Increase/ (Decrease)
Enhanced 911 Fund (208)/Public Safety	Enhanced 911 Admin (800801)	Transfer to Public Works (814092)	\$1,892,323.36
Capital Improvements Fund (402)/Public Safety	NSRS P25 (PW920408)	Transfer from Enhanced E911 (622008)	\$1,892,323.36
Total Transfers (Net Transfers In/Out)			\$0.00

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to approve a Fiscal Year 2025/2026 unbudgeted transfer of \$1,892,323.36 from the Enhanced 911 Fund to the Capital Improvements Fund to support Washoe County’s portion of the Nevada Shared Radio System P25 Project for microwave backhaul equipment,

installation and implementation services, which will support direct communication between Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and first responders; as recommended by the 911 Emergency Response Advisory Committee on May 21, 2026; and, if approved, direct Comptroller to complete the journal entry and net-zero, cross-fund unbudgeted transfer.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve a Fiscal Year 2025/2026 unbudgeted transfer of \$1,892,323.36 from the Enhanced 911 Fund to the Capital Improvements Fund to support Washoe County's portion of the Nevada Shared Radio System P25 Project for microwave backhaul equipment, installation and implementation services, which will support direct communication between Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and first responders; as recommended by the 911 Emergency Response Advisory Committee on May 21, 2026; and, if approved, direct Comptroller to complete the journal entry and net-zero, cross-fund unbudgeted transfer."