

DRAFT MINUTES

**SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON STATE AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
LEGISLATIVE ARKANSAS BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON LOCAL 911 SYSTEMS****Meeting Jointly****Tuesday, September 29, 2015**

The Senate Interim Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs and Legislative Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Local 911 Systems met jointly on Tuesday, September 29, 2015, 10:00 a.m., at the Executive Hotel at City Center, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Members in Attendance

Committee members in attendance: Senator Linda Chesterfield, Co-Chair and Senator Joyce Elliott.

Other Legislators in attendance: Representatives Charles Armstrong, Eddie Armstrong, III, Charles Blake, Trevor Drown, Kenneth Ferguson, David Fielding, Vivian Flowers, Fredrick Love, George McGill, Reginald Murdock, Milton Nicks, Jr., and Matthew Pitsch.

Non-Legislative committee members in attendance: Ms. Brianna Fields, Mr. Chris Gaines, Mr. Joel Hoggard, Mr. Seth LeMaster (for Mr. Shelby Johnson), Judge Michael Lincoln, and Mr. Chris Villines.

Senator Chesterfield called the meeting to order.

Overview of Emergency Services

Jeff Turner, Coordinator, Sebastian County 911 System, gave a brief overview of the Sebastian County 911 system. Sebastian County has two primary Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and one secondary PSAP locations. The Sebastian County Sheriff's Office and Fort Smith Police Department are primary locations, Fort Smith Emergency Medical Services is the secondary location. Mr. Turner stated the 911 operating budget is \$971,812 and total for Sebastian County was \$2.6 million which includes Fort Smith Police Department, Sheriff's Office Communications, Sheriff's Office Facility Fund, and Fort Smith EMS. The software for the 911 system was updated in May 2014 to cassidian vesta offered by AT&T by lease agreement.

University of AR- Fort Smith Campus Safety Procedures & Interfacing with local 911 Services

Ray Ottman, Chief of Police, University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, gave an overview of the safety procedures at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. The Campus Police Department has 10 full-time officers and two dispatchers and maintains 65 buildings and facilities. There are 550 full-time staff and faculty and fall enrollment of 6700 students. For emergency preparedness at the university the campus police department works closely with the safety coordinator. Mr. Ottman stated they utilize the RAVE alert system for mass notification on campus. Staff and students can receive the notification by text, email or voice mail and currently have over 6700 cell phones registered to receive the alert.

Renee Hoover, Administrator, Arkansas Emergency Telephone Services Board, stated the total expenditures by counties for 911 funding was \$48.9 million for 2014, with all but five counties reporting. Fees from mobile devices for 2014 were \$16.9 million and \$6.9 million from land lines.

Arkansas Department of Emergency Management 911 Coordinator Responsibilities

Randie Jones, 911 Coordinator, Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, stated her responsibility as the 911 coordinator is to assist the Blue Ribbon Committee and local 911 systems get the information needed to make recommendations to improve and update current 911 systems in the state.

Overview and Update on the Status of the Address Point File

Seth LeMaster, GIS Lead, Arkansas Geographic Information Systems Office, gave a brief overview of the Arkansas address point data. The address point data contains very specific information including aggregate local data information. Mr. LeMaster stated their approach is to collect and aggregate local data into a single, standardized statewide database. There are almost 1.4 million points loaded in the Arkansas master address project as of September 2014. Some of the challenges of collecting the data are lack of mandated uniform addressing practices and state address data standards.

Update on RAVE Panic Button

Ted Mullenix, Mullenix and Associates, gave an update of the Smart911 implemented four years ago. With Smart911 citizens can create a online safety profile with information about their household they want 911 dispatchers to have during an emergency call. A safety profile can include data about an individual, family, pets and medical conditions. The RAVE Panic Button, legislation passed during the last session, is being implemented in all K12 schools across the state. About 96% of schools have already submitted an online profile. The RAVE team is currently working with school districts and local 911 centers to ensure successful implementation.

Committee and Legislative members attended a demonstration of the RAVE Panic button at Northside High School and a tour of Fort Smith PSAP Center in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.