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State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
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September 27, 2024

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court and

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the Department of Safety, Division of Emergency Services and Communications (DESC) to accept and expend an additional \$5,600,000 of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF), for the construction of a new DESC 911 facility in Laconia, NH. This is an allowable use of ARPA SFRF funds under Section 602 (c)(1)(C) for provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue. Effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2025. **100% Federal Funds.**

This item is contingent upon final written authorization from the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery upon ARPA SFRF being available for reallocation and a determination of appropriate expenditure category.

Funds are to be budgeted as follows:

02-23-23-236510-26920000¹ Department of Safety, DESC, ARPA - 911 Laconia Facility

Class	Description	FY2025 Adjusted Authorized	Requested Action	FY2025 Revised Adjusted Authorized
000-400338-16	Federal Funds	(\$12,436,441)	(\$5,600,000)	(\$18,036,441)
	TOTAL REVENUE	(\$12,436,441)	(\$5,600,000)	(\$18,036,441)
034-500161	New Construction	\$ 12,423,454	\$5,600,000	\$ 18,023,454
041-500800	Audit Set Aside	12,987		12,987
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 12,436,441	\$5,600,000	\$18,036,441

¹ All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602GS2303A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602GS2303Z. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

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EXPLANATION

The Department of Safety, Division of Emergency Services and Communications (DESC) operates two 911 call centers, known as Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) located 26 miles apart. The Concord and Laconia PSAPs provide redundant 911 systems with robust reliability to New Hampshire residents and visitors. These locations are geographically distant enough from one another to ensure survivability of one location and the ability to maintain statewide 911 service in all but the most catastrophic situations. The existing Laconia DESC facility, located on the former Laconia State School property, is a former patient care facility that has been renovated over the years to meet the unique needs of both the DESC 911 operations and Lake Region Mutual Fire Aid, which also operates out of this facility. In October 2021 the State of New Hampshire hired a real estate broker to identify and engage with a suitable buyer for the Laconia State School property. The sale of the property was approved at the Governor and Executive Council meeting on September 26, 2024, late item #B.

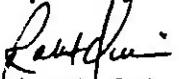
The Department of Safety, working with the Department of Administrative Services, identified suitable state-owned property on the corner of Meredith Center Road and Lane Road in Laconia and subsequently engaged an engineering firm to complete a feasibility study and needs assessment to build a new DESC 911 facility at this location. The new construction will house all existing DESC functions including the Laconia PSAP and continue to provide suitable space for Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid to operate. This request will supplement the Department of Safety item that was originally approved by the Fiscal Committee and the Governor and Executive Council approved on November 18, 2022 (FIS#22-421) and November 22, 2022, #159 respectively, for the acceptance of \$13.0M of ARPA funds. These funds are necessary to complete the construction of this critical public safety facility.

Funds are to be budgeted as follows:

Class 034 - New Construction: Contracts for the construction of the new 911 Laconia Facility

In the event that Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully Submitted,


Robert L. Quinn
Commissioner of Safety