

Greetings;

The Chouteau County Sheriffs Office/9-1-1 Center has the opportunity to apply for a grant through the newly created 9-1-1 Grant Program as a result of HB61. HB61 is a sweeping overhaul of the 9-1-1 statute that was in legislation.

The Chouteau County 9-1-1 Center is applying for a grant to cover a much-needed upgrade for our current 9-1-1 phone system and call taking/dispatching equipment. This system, which is a combination of backroom server equipment, 9-1-1 console position equipment including phones, is outdated and considered “end of life”. For those familiar with computers and similar technologies, updates and upgrades are not uncommon and part of doing business.

The original equipment was purchased in 2007 and 2008 respectively. The Viper 9-1-1 equipment for the backroom which is the server end of the system will need to be upgraded along with the workstations that dispatchers currently operate. Physical phones that will be integrated with the system will also need to be replaced since the current phones are no longer being sold and no longer supported.

The grant asks to “explain the support for the project from private telecommunications providers, local governments, public safety answering points and emergency services agencies and attach any letters of support for the project to the application form”

I am requesting that you or a designated person write a letter of support for the project which specifically would be upgrading our current equipment including phones. The need arises for grant funding because of the anticipated costs of the project, which are approximately \$200,000. Although 9-1-1 funds are collected for equipment costs, the amount desired for the grant far exceeds the current balance in the account. Although we would be asking for the amount above, it’s unknown if the entire amount would be funded since we don’t have figures concerning how much will be available until October 1st.

We have support from our telecommunications provider which is CenturyLink and West Safety Services. West Safety Services provides the equipment and CenturyLink services the equipment. Both have been outstanding supporters of the system and myself and the 9-1-1 Telecommunicators or dispatchers would like to continue with the same product and since the equipment for the backroom and workstations is an upgrade, it will be substantially cheaper than replacing the entire system.

If you decide to write a letter of support and I hope you do, your reasons for support can be satisfaction with current service, anticipation of continued service, dwindling 9-1-1 funds, etc.

This system will also enable us to go down the next path of 9-1-1 which is Next generation 9-1-1, which includes the capabilities of continuing to receive text to 9-1-1, picture, and video messaging. The 9-1-1 Center for Chouteau County has always been at the leading edge of technology and would like to keep the lead! We would like to keep our high standard of service to our citizens.

Thank you for your time and support. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact me at 622-5451, my cell phone at 788-5501 or the email below.

You can send letters to me at: kburdick@chouteaucosomt.com

Thank you for your consideration.

Kimberly Burdick
PSAP Manager/9-1-1 Director
Chouteau County Sheriff’s Office