

Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting

June 6, 2017

Agenda Report

TO: Mayor and Councilors
SUBJECT: 9-1-1 charges
INITIATED BY: Finance Department

Recommendation: Approve a resolution reaffirming the \$1.50 charge for 9-1-1, including Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP), the \$1.00 charge for enhanced wireless 9-1-1 to continue per billable telephone for another year, and the \$0.75 charge for 9-1-1 per retail transaction for prepaid wireless services.

Background: O.C.G.A. §46-5-134 states that the local government operating or contracting for the operation of a 9-1-1 and enhanced wireless 9-1-1 system is to reaffirm “by resolution” on an annual basis the amount of the surcharge.

The “9-1-1” and the enhanced wireless “9-1-1” charges collected by the service supplier shall be deposited and accounted for in a separate restricted revenue fund known as the Emergency Telephone System Fund.

On December 18, 2007, Columbus Consolidated Government authorized by resolution the \$1.50 9-1-1 charge to include Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) connection subscribed to by persons whose billing address is within Muscogee County, Georgia based on Georgia law, O.C.G.A. §46-5-133 which states that authorized local governments are authorized to charge up to a maximum of \$1.50 per billable telephone per month upon each telephone service subscribed to by telephone subscribers whose exchange access lines are in the areas served or which would be served by the 9-1-1 service.

O.C.G.A. §46-5-121 states that the local government operating or contracting for the operation of a 9-1-1 and enhanced wireless 9-1-1 system is to reaffirm “by resolution” on an annual basis the amount of the surcharge.

The “9-1-1” and the enhanced wireless “9-1-1” charges collected by the service supplier shall be deposited and accounted for in a separate restricted revenue fund known as the Emergency Telephone System Fund.

Analysis: The attached resolution addresses compliance with Georgia law in that it reaffirms the 9-1-1, enhanced wireless 9-1-1 charges, and prepaid wireless services for another year and authorizes use of a separate fund known as the Emergency System Telephone Fund.

Financial Considerations: The 9-1-1 funds may be expended for the lease, purchase or maintenance of telephone equipment, costs associated with the 9-1-1 service supplier including recurring charges, salaries for 9-1-1 personnel, office supplies for public safety answering points, and the cost of leasing or purchasing a building used as a public safety answering point. The surcharge is expected to provide \$1,200,000 of revenue in FY2018.

The enhanced wireless 9-1-1 funds may be used to pay the nonrecurring and recurring installation, maintenance, service, and network charges of a wireless service supplier which are associated with providing automatic number identification of a wireless telecommunications connection and the location of the base station or cell site which receives a "9-1-1" call from a wireless telecommunications connection. Thirty cents of the enhanced wireless 9-1-1 charge shall be deposited in a restricted reserve account of the Emergency Telephone phone designated as the Wireless Phase II Reserve Account to pay the nonrecurring and recurring installation, maintenance, service, and network charges of a wireless service supplier which are associated with providing automatic number identification and automatic location identification of a wireless telecommunications connection. The enhanced wireless 9-1-1 surcharge is expected to provide \$1,372,000 of revenue in FY2018.

Legal Considerations: O.C.G.A. §46-5-134 states that the local government operating or contracting for the operation of a 9-1-1 system and enhanced wireless 9-1-1 system is to reaffirm "by resolution" on an annual basis the surcharge.

Recommendations/Actions: Approve a resolution reaffirming the \$1.50 charge for 9-1-1, including Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP), the \$1.00 charge for enhanced wireless 9-1-1 to continue per billable telephone for another year, and the \$0.75 charge for 9-1-1 per retail transaction for prepaid wireless services.