



City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at City Hall

Kentucky State Police's E-911 Dispatching Proposal – Workshop with McCracken County Fiscal Court

The Paducah Board of Commissioners held a joint workshop with the McCracken County Fiscal Court to review the Kentucky State Police's E-911 Dispatching Proposal. The E-911 Board, the City, and the County have been reviewing a proposal for KSP to provide E-911 dispatching services for Paducah-McCracken County from KSP Post 1 in Mayfield. KSP Lt. Brent White and Maj. John Bradley addressed the elected officials and answered several questions. Lt White says, "We are not here to be a vendor or to sell our services. We want to be a resource to you. Whether you decide to consolidate with us or not, there won't be any hard feelings."

Lt. White says the proposal by KSP which officially expired last month was a bare-bones proposal to be the public safety answering point (PSAP) for Paducah-McCracken County and to provide comprehensive dispatching services. Regarding many of the services currently provided locally but not addressed in the proposal, Kentucky State Police believes those services could be provided through additional technology and with a possible extra cost. Maj. Bradley says, "I think we could work anything out. We have time to consider it and to try to work it out." Regarding the initial cost proposal Maj. Bradley says, "I think there was some belief that this was a turnkey operation. That's not the case. You will still have some local costs." The elected officials asked several questions including questions about the number of dispatchers needed. Currently, Paducah-McCracken County employs 18 dispatchers; however, the KSP is proposing only adding ten. Pointing to efficiencies gained due to economies of scale, Maj. Bradley says, "We know based on our experience how many people we will have to staff to handle 'x' number of calls."

The next step if the City and County choose to continue to pursue the possibility of having the KSP provide the dispatching services is to outline each specific service that Paducah-McCracken County would want. The KSP would then draft a new proposal with a detailed list of services and costs. City Manager Jeff Pederson says, "I think we learned tonight that KSP would be willing to respond if we outlined it."

The Paducah-McCracken County E-911 Center has 18 dispatchers and operates with a \$1.6 million budget. The revenue from landline and cell phone taxes generates approximately \$640,000 with the City and County using their general funds to supplement the operation using a funding equation based on call volume. The City has approximately 60 percent of the call volume. Adding Paducah-McCracken County's call volume to Post 1 would double the call volume for that KSP post. The KSP estimates that more than \$1.2 million will be needed in startup costs from Paducah and McCracken County to expand the dispatching in Mayfield which would include the construction of a 2520 square foot addition to Post 1. That startup cost would be in addition to an annual 911 service agreement with KSP for approximately \$700,000 depending upon the services provided. At the January 6, 2015 City Commission meeting, Paducah Fire Chief Steve Kyle and Paducah Police Chief Brandon Barnhill, provided an estimate that the annual local cost will be nearly \$1.3 million which would include the annual 911 service agreement with KSP.

Personnel

Personnel Actions approved to include the hiring of Eric Hickman as Storm Water & Drainage Engineer.

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