

Emergency Communications Operations Board

Action 22-003 – February 2022 NGEN True-Up for FY2022/23 Billing

Date: December 16, 2021

Presented by: Steve Paxton & John Vaught **On behalf of:** ECD & ITD

Request:

1. Recommend that the Information Technology Department conduct an NGEN Device True-Up in February 2022 to be used in the FY2022/23 NGEN budgets and billings.
2. Recommend methodology for the February 2021 NGEN True-Up.

Summary/Discussion:

Next Generation (NGEN) Radio system costs, including Debt Service on the loan taken to build the system, and ongoing Operations & Maintenance (O&M) costs are charged to NGEN system users based on their proportion of total devices on the system. A “True-Up” of these devices is periodically conducted, at the recommendation of this Board and the direction of the ECD Executive Board, to be used for future cost sharing. The last time a True-Up was conducted was in March 2020 for use beginning in FY2020/21. This True-Up included Digital and Analog radios but did not include Broadband Push-To-Talk devices (ie. Be-On) so not all devices that access the NGEN system were counted.

At the November 18th ECD Operations Board meeting four methodology options were presented and discussed for use in the NGEN Agreement. One of these same four options, or an alternative as recommended by this Board, can be used for the February 2022 True-Up and this methodology does not need to be the same as what is recommended for inclusion in the NGEN Agreement. These four options are:

- Option 1: Status Quo - includes only Digital and Analog Radios and allocates costs evenly per device.
- Option 2: Includes Digital, Analog, and Broadband Push-To-Talk (BPTT) devices and evenly distributes costs per device. This will charge for every device that touches the system.
- Option 3: Includes all devices from Method 2, but assigns a weighting factor to Fire devices to reduce the cost of these devices. This is to reflect lower usage of Fire devices vs others.
- Option 4: A portion of the fees are charged as a flat fee to each agency and the remainder of the fees are allocated by device count.

ECD & ITD Recommendation:

The County recommends Option 2 as it captures all devices that touch the NGEN system and distributes costs to all system users.

Fiscal Impact:

If a new True-Up is recommended, it will be taken to the ECD Executive Board for approval and if approved ECD will charge FY2022/23 NGEN O&M costs in FY2022/23 using this new True-Up. NGEN Debt Service Payment 12 of 13 will also be charged using this new True-Up in Quarter 1 of FY2022/23 billing.

If this Board does make a recommendation, then the March 2021 True-Up will be used for all future billing until a new True-Up occurs.

Operations Board Action

Recommendation to Executive Board: Proceed with a True-Up in February 2022 for use in FY2022/23 billing/budget using Option #1.

Vote Date 12/16/2021

Motion by Panholzer 2nd Hober Approved: yes Yeas: All Present Nays: None

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/s/ Chair Gaudenz Panholzer 1/14/2022 | 8:04 PM PST
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