

Washington state E911 office to reimburse computer aided dispatch purchases

Posted At : May 19, 2011 1:30 PM | Posted By : Jeff Webster

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If you are a computer aided dispatch (CAD) vendor, now is the time to begin working with counties in Washington state. Effective June 1, 2011, the Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division's E911 Office will be reimbursing eligible counties for the purchase or lease of new CAD systems, which consists of basic hardware and/or software. This funding assistance will be in place from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013. In order to qualify for assistance, the county requesting reimbursement must have a contract with the state's E911 office. The amount requested must be reasonable, prudent, and applicable to E911. All equipment must be ordered, installed, and accepted no later than the end of the contract performance period of June 30, 2013. The state will have a moratorium on this type of funding assistance from March 1, 2013 through June 30, 2013.

Applicable CAD systems may include a mapping component if not part of the public safety answering point's (PSAP) customer premise equipment (CPE)/telephone system or part of a stand-alone system. At a minimum, the basic components of the CAD system shall consist of hardware, call-entry module, geodata module, and interface to geographical information services (GIS) and teletype interface. The interfaces to automatic number identification (ANI)/automatic location identification (ALI) controllers are fundable. This includes upgrades to add new software features and hardware, or acquisitions to replace failed components.

Reimbursements for lease costs shall be on a year-to-year basis. Prior to approval of this policy, the state's E911 office reimbursed for CAD hardware and software. Maintenance was not to exceed 10 percent of the original eligible purchase price of the equipment per year. For this reimbursement period, counties must submit a written quote including shipping, handling, taxes, and installation charges to the state's E911 office for review and approval prior to purchasing or leasing the equipment. Written quotes should be sent to E911request@emd.wa.gov.

GovWin Take:

This reimbursement program offers a great deal of opportunity for vendors who are finding it more difficult to convince agencies to purchase equipment in the current financial environment. Nothing is more frustrating than an agency being handcuffed by budget or lack of budget. This program gives agencies the flexibility they need to purchase equipment they normally would need to add to their capital improvement program or other long-term planning budgets. On top of this, it provides agencies with the direction and assistance they need in determining how and what to buy. More information on this program can be found [HERE](#).