

ISSUE:

Consider and/or Act on a Resolution supporting a statewide wireless 9-1-1 service fee adjustment and sustainable funding model for the next generation 9-1-1.

SUMMARY:

This resolution supports the need for a sustainable funding model to maintain and enhance the North Central Texas 9-1-1 emergency communications system. With the region's population expected to grow significantly by 2050, demand on emergency response services will increase, making reliable, modern, and secure 9-1-1 infrastructure critical to public safety. The North Central Texas Emergency Communications District (NCT9-1-1) has successfully implemented the state-mandated Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) system, transitioning to advanced, IP-based technology capable of handling voice, text, and multimedia communications. However, the current funding structure—primarily supported by a statewide wireless fee that has remained unchanged at \$0.50 per month since 1997—is no longer sufficient to sustain ongoing operations, cybersecurity needs, system upgrades, and lifecycle replacements.

As Emergency Communication Districts lack taxing authority and rely solely on these fees, continued underfunding poses risks to system reliability, resiliency, and response times. Most other states have increased their 9-1-1 fees to reflect modern demands, and recent survey data indicates strong public support for similar action in Texas.

This resolution emphasizes the importance of securing long-term, adequate funding to ensure the continued effectiveness, security, and modernization of the 9-1-1 system, ultimately safeguarding residents, visitors, and first responders across North Central Texas.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution