

System Name: Merrionette Park Police Department
Case # 16-W-164
Date Filed: 7/1/17

Department Review of Waiver

Requirement	Information Included	Staff Comment
Grounds For Waiver	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Under 50 ILCS 750 Section 15.4a (a)(2), in any county with a population of at least 250,000 that has more than one Emergency Telephone System Board, Joint Emergency Telephone System Board, or qualified governmental entity, any 9-1-1 Authority serving a population of less than 25,000 shall be consolidated such that no 9-1-1 Authority in the county serves a population of less than 25,000. Merrionette Park has a population of approximately 1,866 and covers a 0.40 square mile area. Merrionette Park is requesting a waiver claiming that consolidation would result a substantial threat to public safety, is economically unreasonable and technically infeasible.</p>
Substantial Threat to Public Safety		<p>Merrionette Park stated that its police department is in on the NET 6 radio band network with the neighboring communities of Alsip, Evergreen Park, Oak Lawn and Hometown. All of the 911 authorities that Merrionette Park consulted with regarding consolidation, with the exception of Oak Lawn, are not on the NET 6 network. Merrionette Park stated that officer safety would be put at risk due to unheard calls, missed calls, mistakenly dispatched calls, and competing operational and economic needs of vastly different 9-1-1 systems. Also, by consolidating with an authority that is not on NET 6, the police department would not be able to receive immediate backup and assistance from neighboring towns. Instead, Merrionette Park would have to rely on dispatchers to request assistance from the neighboring towns. This extra step could cause a delay in response time putting responding officers and citizens in jeopardy.</p> <p>Merrionette Park has a large restaurant/bar venue with its city limits with the capacity for 7,000 people. This establishment has been the site for frequent police response for violent and alcohol infused situations. Merrionette Park indicated that the quick response from other NET 6 communities has been key to efficient response further protecting officer safety.</p>
Economically Unreasonable		<p>Merrionette Park stated that its current dispatch center was remodeled and updated at the cost of \$400,000 prior to the consolidations required by the Emergency Telephone Systems Act. A ten year bond was obtained to purchase the equipment.</p>

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			<p>Merrionette Park's annual cost to operate its dispatch center is approximately \$286,500 which includes salaries, operational costs, MABAS dispatching and the bond repayment. This is the cost to man the police station to monitor LEADS, administrative telephone lines, watch prisoners and assist public walk-ins. Merrionette Park also stated that it will need to replace its NET 6 radio equipment due to upcoming frequency requirements.</p> <p>Merrionette Park obtained the following proposals for consolidation:</p> <p><u>Southwest Central Dispatch</u> - The estimated annual cost, which includes start-up cost, annual cost, new radios, 9-1-1 Trunk ANI/ ALI, and an initial administrative fee is \$386,142.12.</p> <p><u>Daley's Dispatch Center</u> - The estimated annual cost, which includes start-up cost, annual cost, new radios, laptop computers, and 9-1-1 Trunk ANI/ALI is \$276,475.12.</p> <p><u>Oak Lawn Central Dispatch</u> - The estimated annual cost, which includes annual cost, laptop computers, and 9-1-1 Trunk ANI/ALI is \$170,435.12.</p> <p><u>CalComm Regional Consolidated Dispatch Center</u> - The estimated annual cost, which includes annual cost, new radios, laptop computers, and 9-1-1 Trunk ANI/ ALI is \$335,435.12.</p> <p><u>Southcom Combined Dispatch</u> - The estimated annual cost, which includes start-up cost, annual cost, new radios, laptop computers, and 9-1-1 Trunk ANI/ ALI is \$436,935.12.</p> <p>Each of the proposed costs above include \$1,935.12 of 911 trunk ANI/ALI costs which would be paid by the State not Merrionette Park or the entity with which it consolidates. Each of these costs also include an estimated \$38,500 for laptop computers. It also appears that these proposals are for 911 dispatching in addition to police and possibly fire dispatch which could reduce some of Merrionette Park's annual dispatch center operating costs of \$286,500.</p> <p>Merrionette Park stated that the six municipalities that border it dwarf its population of 1,866 and those municipalities were not sympathetic</p>
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			to Merrionette Park's economic issues. Merrionette Park stated that it would be unreasonable to join another 9-1-1 authority and have to bear the cost as if it was a municipality with a larger population.
	Technically Infeasible		Merrionette Park did not indicate why it would be technically infeasible for it to consolidate.
Detailed Explanation of Efforts Taken to Consolidate		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Merrionette Park obtained proposals from 5 neighboring 9-1-1 authorities.
Duration of Time for Waiver		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Permanent
Five Year Strategic Plan		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not included
Planned Purchases or Replacements		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Efforts to Establish		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Interoperability		
	Shared Resources		

Conclusions: Merrionette Park is requesting a waiver based on a substantial threat to public safety, economic unreasonableness and technical infeasibility. Merrionette Park is claiming that consolidation would result in a risk to officer and citizen safety if it had to consolidate with a 9-1-1 authority that is not on the NET 6 radio network. It would appear that consolidating with Oak Lawn could alleviate those concerns as it is also on the NET 6 radio network and also has the lowest of the proposed consolidation costs. As far as consolidation being technically infeasible, no information supporting that claim was provided. Merrionette Park also stated that consolidation would be economically unreasonable as it recently completed a \$400,000 remodel of its dispatch center and is not eligible for a consolidation grant. Merrionette Park itself cannot apply for a consolidation grant, however, the 9-1-1 authority with whom Merrionette Park might consolidate with could apply for a consolidation grant and use those funds to aid Merrionette Park with consolidation expenses such as laptops and new radios.

In any case, Merrionette Park has a population of approximately 1,900 which is well below the minimum of 25,000 served required to avoid consolidation under 50 ILCS 750/15.4a(a)(2).

Reviewed by: Stacy Ross Date: 7/12/17