

911

KENT CO.
DISPATCH AUTHORITY

Annual Update 2020/2021

July 2021

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KENT CO.
DISPATCH AUTHORITY

Board Members

- Mark Herald, Chairman, City of East Grand Rapids
- Jeff Drake, Vice Chairman, Township Fire Chiefs Association
- Mike DeVries, Treasurer, Township Supervisors
- Michelle Lajoie-Young, Secretary, Kent County Sheriff
- Curtis Holt, City of Wyoming
- John Lehman, City of Grand Rapids
- Greg Long, City of Walker
- Mike May, City of Grandville
- Chris McIntire, Michigan State Police
- Mark Meijer, KCEMS
- Roger Morgan, Kent County Board of Commissioners
- Eric Payne, City of Grand Rapids
- Dave Robinson, City of Rockford

The KCDA Board is a multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary board comprised of elected and appointed officials selected by their jurisdiction/associations for representation.

Kent County Dispatch Authority: Purpose and Responsibility

The KCDA works to coordinate technology to promote interoperability between 911 dispatch centers to provide enhanced public safety communication services to first responders.

Through this coordination, KCDA promotes reliability for 911 communications and maximizes the efficient use of financial resources.

SECTION I PURPOSE

The Participating Municipalities desire to create a legal entity to be known as the "Kent County Dispatch Authority" ("KCDA"), which will be responsible for the implementation of technology integration and operational compatibility of dispatch of emergency, police, fire, and ambulance services, and other functions as provided in this Agreement.

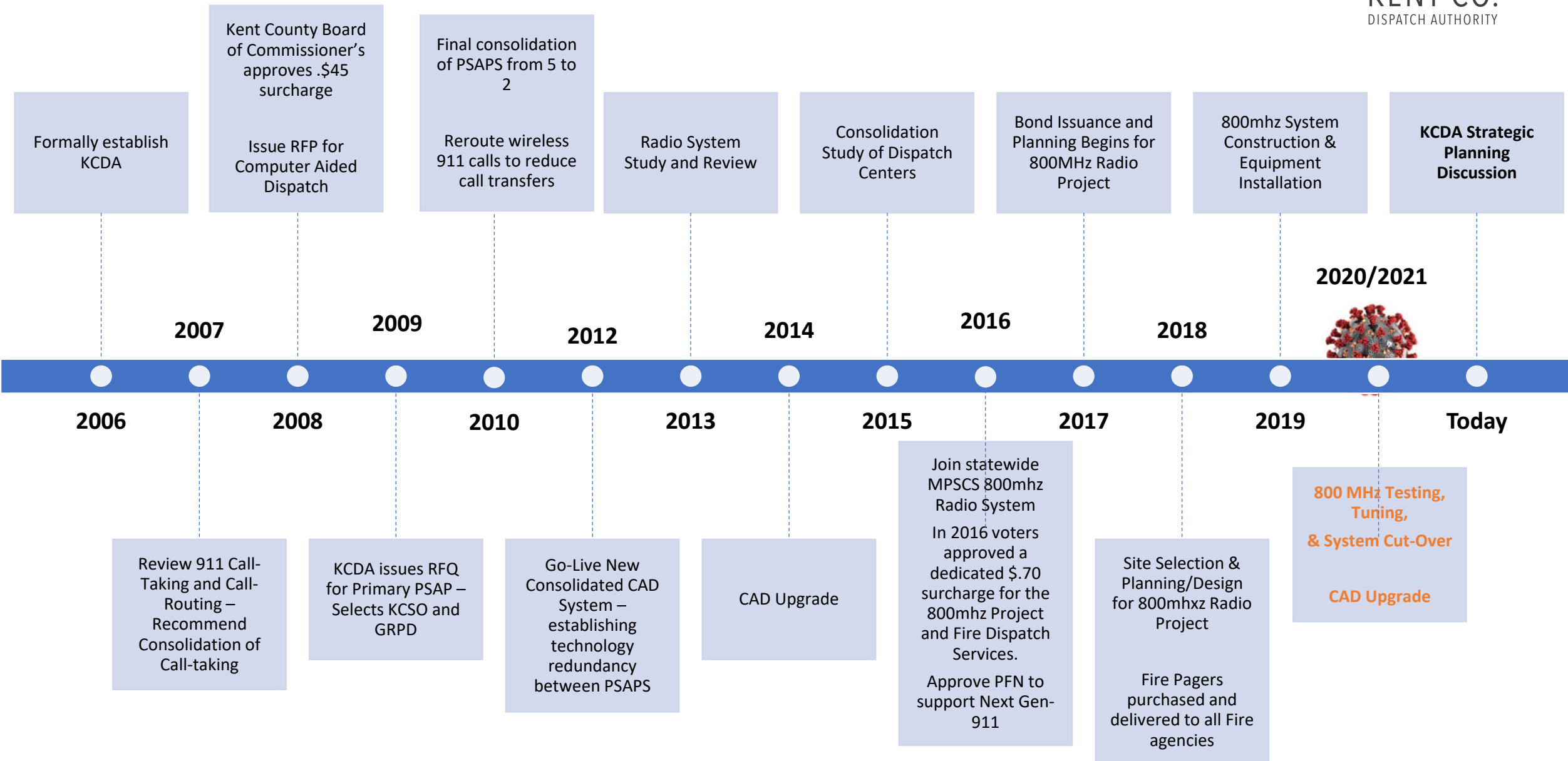
4.3 KCDA RESPONSIBILITY

KCDA is assigned by this Agreement, the responsibility of technological integration and operational compatibility of emergency dispatch systems for the Participating Municipalities and Supporting Entities within the geographic borders of Kent County. The intention of this Agreement is that KCDA will approve, purchase, own, and provide maintenance, vendor, and administrative/technical support for new or additional technology and equipment for emergency dispatch systems within the County.

KCDA Initiatives Over Time

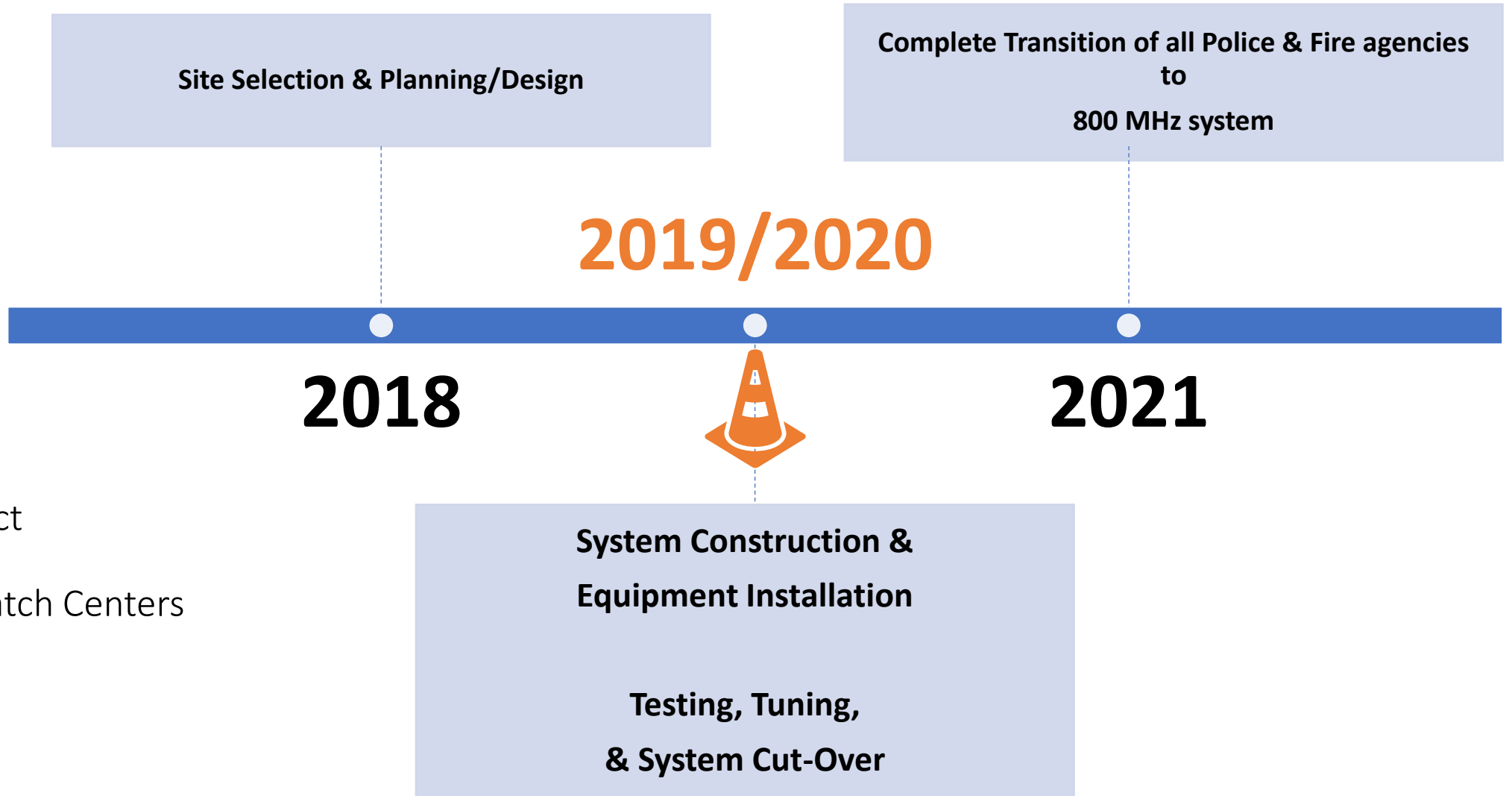
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Update: 800mhz Radio Project

\$25 Million Project
12-Sites + 2 Dispatch Centers





2020 Final Site Construction, Installations, and Testing

- Construction and installation of all equipment at 12-sites and 2-dispatch centers.
- Each site was rigorously tested to ensure all components operated properly to meet MPSCS communication standards.
- All sites were then connected to MPSCS system and began transmitting radio communications.

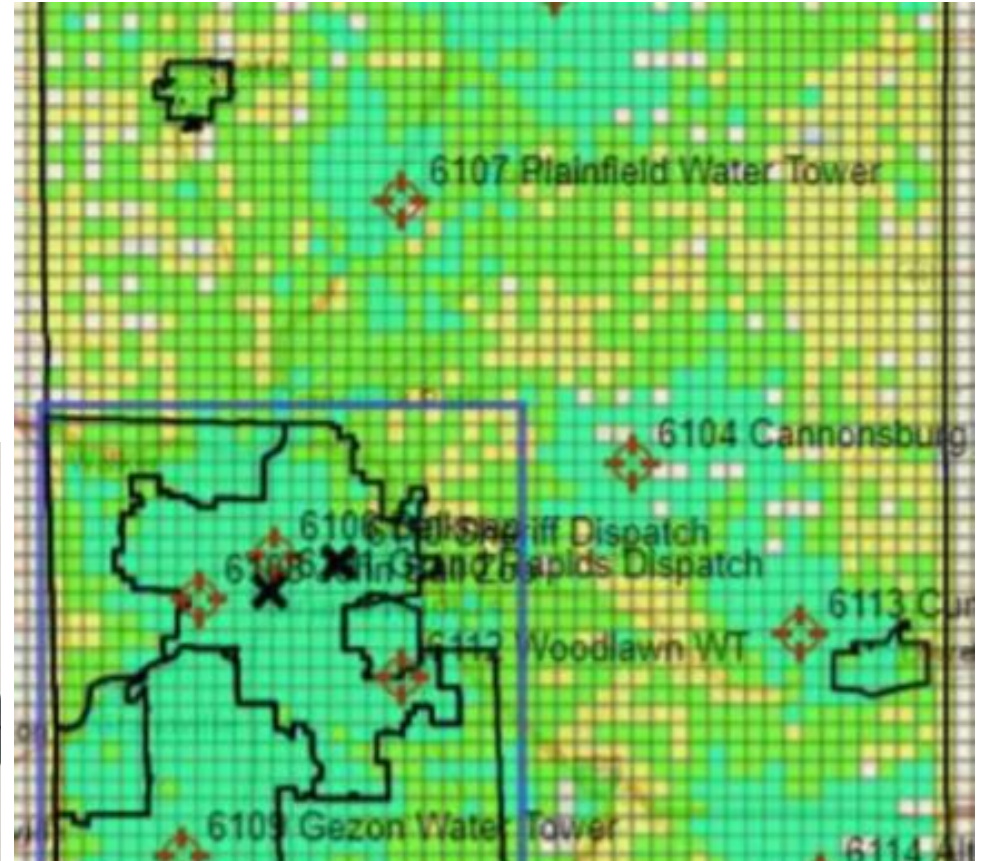
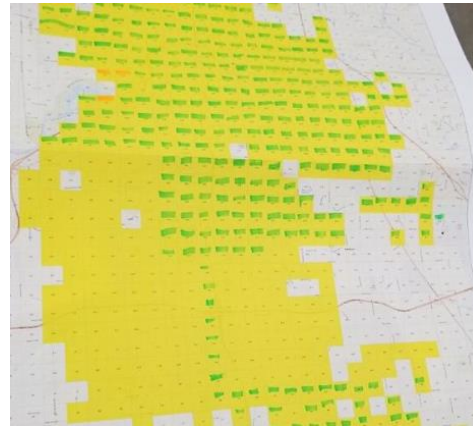
✓ Coverage Testing

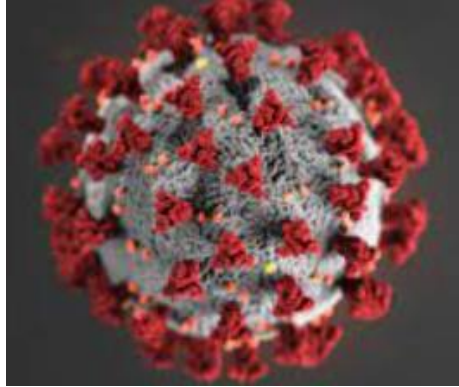
👥 3,536 individual tiles/tests completed by four test teams from local agencies.

🎯 Testing ½ mile increments across 864 square miles to determine coverage level

🚗 No failures during testing.

🏢 Agencies report improved communication quality and coverage throughout the County





End User Operator Training

- COVID-19 heavily impacted trainings which were scheduled and rescheduled multiple times. Agencies remained flexible and attended various in-person, virtual, and agency specific training sessions to meet the MPSCS training requirements.
- Over 2,500 police and fire personnel have received the necessary training to understand the 800 MHz system and utilize the technology effectively. This was a significant investment of staffing resources from all agencies to complete the training.
- The Kent County Sherriff's Office facilitated meetings for all public safety agencies in coordination with MPSCS trainers. And, the GRPD and GRFD facilitated training for their staff.
- All future users will continue to receive the same training.

System Cut-Over

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For Immediate Release

Kent County Dispatch Authority Launches New \$25 Million Radio System
Digital System – Part of Voter-Approved Surcharge – Enhances Public Safety By Providing Improved Communications for Police, Fire and Emergency Personnel Across Kent County

Grand Rapids, Michigan, Dec. 8, 2020 – The Kent County Dispatch Authority has completed the construction and installation of a new \$25 million countywide digital radio system for police, fire and emergency response personnel that will enhance public safety and allow local agencies to transition to a platform that provides improved communications.

[Click here to read the full media release](#)

- Following completion of the system, in December 2020, the GRPD was the first agency to cut-over to the 800 MHz radio system. The GRFD followed in early 2021 and the Kent County Sheriff's Office has been deploying portable radios to all KCSO personnel and fire departments throughout the County.
- Users reported significant improvement in clarity and coverage in their radio communications.
- Thank You to the staff and personnel of all agencies for your hard work and dedication to the success of the 800mhz radio project.

Financial Status

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The Authority was established in 2006 to coordinate technology.



The Authority serves as the fiduciary for the local and state 911 surcharge.



Annually, the Authority distributes \$2.75 million to the City of Grand Rapids and Kent County to fund 911 Call-Taking Services.








Through the local 911 surcharge, the Authority also distributes \$2 million to Kent County and the City of Grand Rapids to fund Fire Dispatch Services.










In addition, the Authority has undertaken a \$25 million 800mhz Radio Project and annually funds software and equipment maintenance contracts.

2020 Summary of Sources of Funds – All Funds

	\$.70 Surcharge Revenue	\$ 4,637,005	52%
	\$.45 Surcharge Revenue	\$ 3,031,504	34%
	State 911 Surcharge Revenue	\$ 992,512	11%
	Miscellaneous Revenue – Interest	\$ 221,113	3%
	Total Sources:	\$ 8,882,134	100 %

2020 Summary of Major Uses – All Funds

	Call-Taking Payment to GR & KC	\$ 2,750,000	35 %
	800mhz Bond Payment & Debt Service Reserve	\$ 2,128,647	27 %
	Fire Dispatch Contract to GR & KC	\$ 2,000,000	25 %
	Software/Equipment Annual Maintenance Contracts	\$ 591,065	8 %
	Contract Services/Supplies/Insurance	\$ 175,128	2 %
	Insurance – 800mhz Equip.	\$ 132,453	2 %
	Tower/Antennas Utilities (partial year)	\$ 30,141	<1%
	Total Expenditures	\$ 7,807,434	100%

Fund Balance & Capital Plan

The Authority maintains a fund balance policy to assist in managing the financial resources of the Authority as well as planning for unanticipated expenditures or changes to revenues. The Authority also maintains a Capital Plan to identify the need for funding in future years. Major planned projects include a \$4 million CAD replacement and phone system upgrades. Planning for major purchases is essential to sound financial management.



Capital Fund

\$ 4,105,565



Un-Assigned – General Fund

\$ 5,666,073



Un-Assigned – 800mhz/Fire Dispatch

\$ 1,626,604



Total Fund Balance

\$ 11,398,242

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For agendas, minutes, project reports or additional information: www.kent911.org