

**Testimony To The
INTERIM TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Prepared May 10, 2012 by the
Emergency Services Communications Coordinating Committee (ESC3)
Terry Traynor, Secretary**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for the invitation to provide a preliminary report to your committee regarding the status of the Emergency Services Communications System in North Dakota.

The Emergency Services Communications Coordinating Committee, often called the ESC3, was established by the Legislature in 2001 and has been given several very specific responsibilities – two of which involved interaction with this Legislative Committee.

NDCC 57-40.6-12 requires that the *“governing body of a city or county, which adopted a fee on assessed communications services under this chapter, shall make an annual report of the income, expenditures, and status of its emergency services communication system.”* The statute goes on to require that the ESC3; *“request, receive, and compile reports from each governing body on the use of the proceeds of the fee imposed under this chapter, analyze the reports with respect to the guidelines, file its report with the legislative council by November first of each even-numbered year regarding the use of the fee revenue, and recommend to the legislative assembly the appropriate maximum fee allowed by section 57-40.6-02.”*

Additionally, the ESC3 is to *“Recommend to the legislative management changes to the operating standards for emergency services communications, including training or certification standards for dispatchers.”*

Since its creation, the ESC3 has completed four biennial reports. In 2010, a 37-page report, submitted to the Transportation and Public Safety Committee, included eight recommendations – two of which requested legislative changes to chapter 57-40.6. Most significantly, an almost complete rewrite of the operating

standards for emergency services communications was recommended, and it was ultimately approved by the 62nd Legislative Assembly very much as recommended.

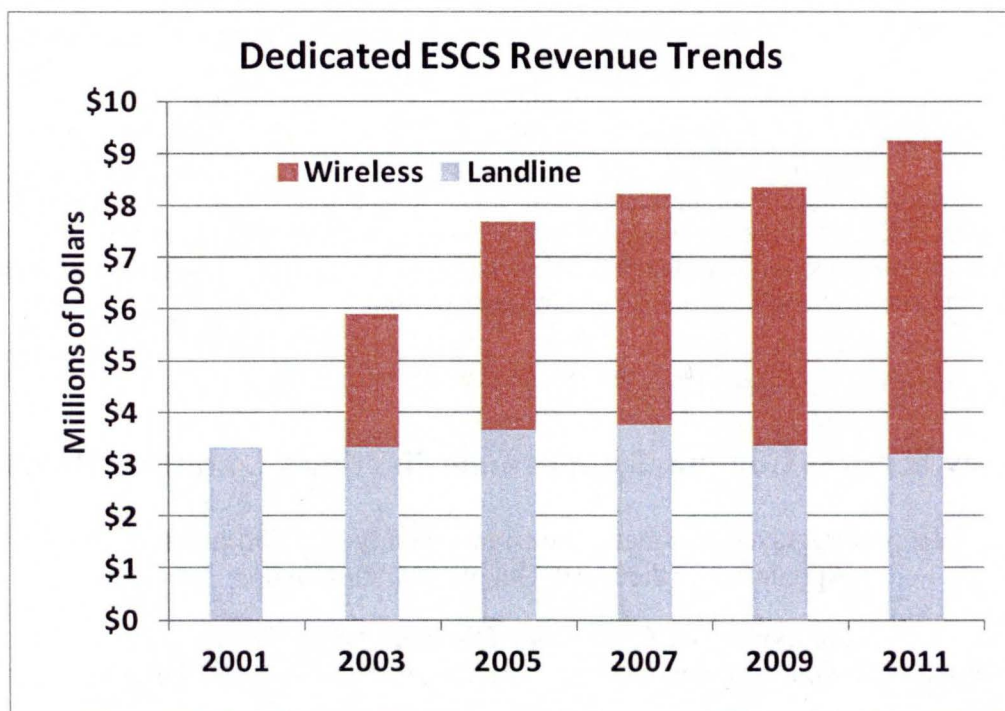
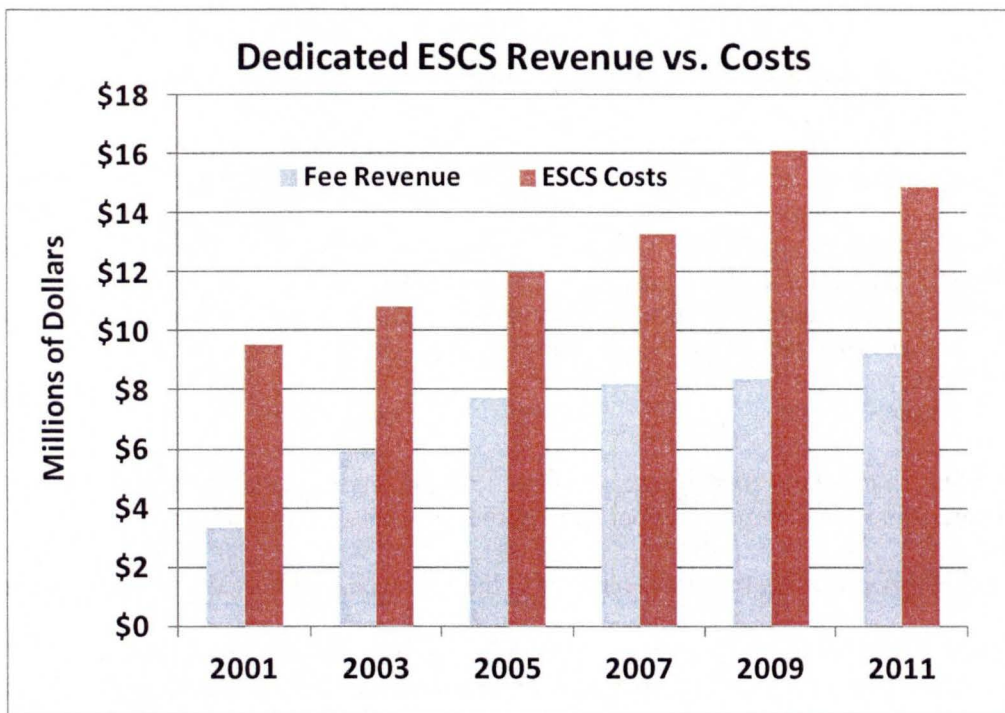
For the current report (as with the previous four) each of the 53 counties and two cities that have a ESCS fee is asked to complete a “financial” survey; additionally, each of the 22 public safety answering points (PSAPs) are asked to complete an “operational” survey. Over 200 data elements are collected from the surveys and compiled to form the basis of the biennial report.

The financial survey, distributed in January 2012 for the current biennium’s report, has been completed by all 55 jurisdictions, and just a hint of some the preliminary data is illustrated in the two charts. Further error-checking and analysis must still be done on this data.

The PSAP operational survey was distributed in April and 13 of the 22 of these very extensive surveys have been completed thus far.

In addition to the raw reporting of the finances and operational statistics, as noted above, the ESC3 has historically used the report as an opportunity to brief Legislators on priority issues and make recommendations to system stakeholders. Topics for the 2012 report have been discussed by the ESC3 and it was determined that the centerpiece of the report will be the implementation of “Next Generation 911” or the network and services that will be necessary for PSAPs to receive and process communications from the ever-expanding array of communication devices. At its next meeting, the ESC3 is scheduled to review the operational standards, and determine if any amendments are indicated.

The ESC3 looks forward to the completion of its 2012 Biennial Report and its future presentation to this committee.



57-40.6-12. Emergency services communications coordinating committee -- Membership -- Duties.

1. The governing body of a city or county, which adopted a fee on assessed communications services under this chapter, shall make an annual report of the income, expenditures, and status of its emergency services communication system. The annual report must be submitted to the emergency services communications coordinating committee. The committee is composed of four members, one appointed by the North Dakota 911 association, one appointed by the North Dakota association of counties, one appointed by the chief information officer of the state, and one appointed by the adjutant general to represent the division of state radio.

2. The committee shall:

a. Recommend to the legislative management changes to the operating standards for emergency services communications, including training or certification standards for dispatchers;

b. Develop guidelines regarding the allowable uses of the fee revenue collected under this chapter;

c. Request, receive, and compile reports from each governing body on the use of the proceeds of the fee imposed under this chapter, analyze the reports with respect to the guidelines, file its report with the legislative council by November first of each even-numbered year regarding the use of the fee revenue, and recommend to the legislative assembly the appropriate maximum fee allowed by section 57-40.6-02;

d. Periodically evaluate chapter 57-40.6 and recommend changes to the legislative management; and

e. Serve as the governmental body to coordinate plans for implementing emergency 911 services and internet protocol enabled emergency applications for 911.

3. The committee may initiate and administer statewide agreements among the governing bodies of the local governmental units with jurisdiction over an emergency 911 telephone system to coordinate the procurement of equipment and services, fund the research, administration, and activities of the committee, and contract for the necessary staff support for committee activities.

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Emergency Services Communications Coordinating Committee Members

Jerry Bergquist, Chairman – Stutsman County 911 Coordinator
Appointed by the North Dakota 911 Association

Mike Lynk, Vice Chairman – Director of State Radio
Appointed by the Adjutant General to represent the State Radio Division

Terry Traynor, Secretary – NDACo Assistant Director
Appointed by the North Dakota Association of Counties

Duane Schell – Director of Telecommunications, ITD
Appointed by the Chief Information Officer of the State