



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND CABLE**

D.T.C. 25-2

June 12, 2025

Petition of the State 911 Department for Approval of Fiscal Year 2025 Expenditures, and  
Approval of Fiscal Year 2026 Development Grant Amount

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**FINAL ORDER**

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## I. INTRODUCTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On March 18, 2025, the State 911 Department (“911 Department”) petitioned the Department of Telecommunications and Cable (“DTC”) for approval of increases to certain budgetary items, as outlined by statutory requirements (“Petition”). Specifically, the 911 Department requests approval for increases to: (1) projected Fiscal Year (“FY”) 2025 expenditures and (2) the FY 2026 regional development grant (“Development Grant”) amount. DTC is permitted 90 days to review and issue a final decision on the Petition before these requests are deemed approved. *See* G.L. c. 6A, §§ 18B(i), 18H(c).

DTC issued its first set of Information Requests (“IRs”) to the 911 Department on April 9, 2025. *First Set of Information Requests of the Department of Telecommunications and Cable to the State 911 Department*, D.T.C. 25-2. The 911 Department submitted proof of its publication of the Notice of Hearing on April 10, 2025. *911 Department’s Proof of Publication*, D.T.C. 25-2. The 911 Department filed its responses on April 23, 2025. *Responses to First Set of Information Requests of the Department of Telecommunications and Cable to the State 911 Department*, D.T.C. 25-2 (“IR 1-1 through IR 1-25”). DTC submitted its second set of IRs to the 911 Department on April 29, 2025. *Second Set of Information Requests of the Department of Telecommunications and Cable to the State 911 Department*, D.T.C. 25-2. The 911 Department filed its responses on May 12, 2025. *Responses to Second Set of Information Requests of the Department of Telecommunications and Cable to the State 911 Department*, D.T.C. 25-2 (“IR 2-1 through IR 2-9”). On May 20, 2025, DTC conducted a public and evidentiary hearing on these matters via the Microsoft Teams videoconferencing platform. *See generally* Transcript of Record (“Tr.”).

On May 30, 2025, the 911 Department responded to three record requests DTC issued at

the evidentiary hearing. *Responses to Record Requests of the Department of Telecommunications and Cable to the State 911 Department*, D.T.C. 25-2.

In this Order, DTC approves the 911 Department's projected FY 2025 expenditures and the FY 2026 Development Grant amount.<sup>1</sup>

## II. ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

State law requires the 911 Department to petition DTC for approval of certain budgetary expenditures and percentage allocations for funds disbursed from the Enhanced 911 Fund ("Fund"). In particular, the 911 Department must petition DTC if: (1) projected total expenditures exceed total expenditures of the previous fiscal year by 10% or more; (2) the Training Grant allocation equals or exceeds 7.5% of the total 911 service surcharge ("surcharge") revenues of the previous fiscal year; (3) the Support Grant allocation equals or exceeds 31.25% of the total surcharge revenues of the previous fiscal year; (4) the Wireless State Police Public Safety Answering Point ("PSAP") Grant allocation equals or exceeds 6% of the total surcharge revenues of the previous fiscal year; (5) an adjustment that increases the initial total allocation of the incentive grant<sup>2</sup> by 10% or more; or (6) the projected expenditures for the Development Grant exceed the initial total Development Grant allocation of \$7.5 million by 10% or more. G.L. c. 6A, §§ 18B(i)(1)-(5), 18H(c); *see also Final Order* at 3, D.T.C. 19-2 (May 16, 2019) ("19-2 Order").

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<sup>1</sup> The 911 Department also requested that DTC consider the Petition as satisfying the requirement under G.L. c. 6A, § 18H(b) that the 911 Department report annually to the DTC on the financial condition of the Fund. *See* Petition at 1 n.1. DTC has previously clarified this requirement. *Final Order* at 16, D.T.C. 20-1 (May 26, 2020) ("20-1 Order"). DTC grants the 911 Department's request.

<sup>2</sup> The statute specifies allocations for each Incentive Grant category as follows: (1) for regional PSAPs serving 2 municipalities, 0.5% of the total surcharge revenues of the previous fiscal year; (2) for regional PSAPs serving 3 to 9 municipalities, 1.0% of the total surcharge revenues of the previous fiscal year; (3) for regional PSAPs serving 10 or more municipalities, 1.5% of the total surcharge revenues of the previous fiscal year; and (4) for RECCs, 2.0% of the total surcharge revenues of the previous fiscal year. G.L. c. 6A, § 18B(i)(4); 2008 Mass. Acts, 223 ("for regional PSAPs serving 10 or more municipalities, 1½ per cent of the total surcharge revenues of the previous fiscal year").

State law also requires that expenditures from the Fund be prudently incurred and:

[A]ssociated with: the lease, purchase, upgrade or modification of primary and regional PSAP customer premises equipment and the maintenance of such equipment; network development, operation and maintenance; database development, operation, and maintenance; training of 911 telecommunicators regarding the receipt and use of enhanced 911 service information; education of consumers regarding the operation, limitation, role and responsible use of enhanced 911 service; grants associated with enhanced 911 service as set forth in subsection (i) and any other grant approved by the [911 Department] associated with providing enhanced 911 service in the commonwealth; the recurring and nonrecurring costs of communication services providers in providing enhanced 911 service in the commonwealth to the extent required by federal or Massachusetts law or regulation or federal or Massachusetts agency decision or order; and other expenses incurred by the [911 Department] in administering and operating the enhanced 911 system in the commonwealth.

G.L. c. 6A, § 18B(f). Thus, when reviewing 911 Department petitions, DTC must determine whether the 911 Department's allocations and expenditures are, or will be, prudently incurred. *See Final Order at 3-6*, D.T.C. 17-1 (Apr. 10, 2017) ("*17-1 Order*"); *Order at 5-6*, D.T.C. 10-1, (Apr. 5, 2010); G.L. c. 6A, § 18B(f). When examining whether an expense is, or will be, prudently incurred, DTC assesses whether circumstances, at the time the decision was made, adequately justified the reasonableness of the expense. *See Order at 7, 9, 19*, D.T.C. 07-7 (Feb. 8, 2008) ("*07-7 Order*"). DTC will not substitute its own judgment for that of the 911 Department as to what is reasonably required to perform the 911 Department's statutory obligations, and the 911 Department has the authority to determine which categories of equipment, training, and support expenditures it will submit to DTC for approval. *See Order at 16*, D.T.E. 03-63-Phase I (July 14, 2003) (finding that although the Statewide Emergency Telecommunications Board ("SETB")<sup>3</sup> must "support the reasonableness of its proposed

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<sup>3</sup> The SETB was the predecessor agency to the 911 Department and was dissolved on February 1, 2009. *See* 2008 Mass. Acts, c. 223.

expenditures, the [Department of Telecommunications and Energy (“DTE”)<sup>4</sup>] lacks the jurisdiction to tell the SETB what categories of expenditure it is required to propose”). However, even though the 911 Department may decide that a certain expense is needed, all expenses must still be prudently incurred. *See 07-7 Order* at 8. Expenses are deemed prudent if they are necessary for the funding of the 911 Department’s provision of enhanced 911 services and programs in the Commonwealth and, at the same time, maintain a reasonable, stable surcharge level in order to protect the interests of communications service ratepayers. *See Order at 4-5*, D.T.C. 11-2 (May 27, 2011) (“*11-2 Order*”); *07-7 Order* at 9; *Interim Order* at 7, D.T.C. 07-7 (Nov. 30, 2007); *Order* at 27-28, 35, D.T.E. 06-4 (Dec. 1, 2006).

A. Analysis of FY 2025 Projected Expenditures

The 911 Department requests DTC approval of projected expenditures of \$280,141,860 for FY 2025. Petition at 2; *State 911 Department Petition – Attachment A*, D.T.C. 25-2 (Mar. 18, 2025) (“Attachment A”). Since the 911 Department incurred \$154,781,122 in actual expenditures for FY 2024, the 911 Department’s projected FY 2025 expenditures represent an increase of greater than 10% from the previous fiscal year’s spending. As discussed above, the 911 Department is required to seek approval for projected total expenditures that exceed the total actual expenditures of the previous fiscal year by 10% or more, and DTC reviews the reasonableness of such requests by inquiring into whether these expenses are, or will be, prudently incurred. *See G.L. c. 6A, § 18H(c)*. The 911 Department’s projected expenses for FY 2025 include four categories: (a) Administration; (b) Grant Programs; (c) 9-1-1 Administration & Operation; and (d) Programs. Petition at 4-16; Attachment A. DTC analyzes the prudence of

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<sup>4</sup> The DTE was the predecessor agency to DTC and was dissolved on April 11, 2007. *See* 2007 Mass. Acts, c. 19.

the projected expenditures in each category below and determines that the 911 Department's projected FY 2025 expenditures are necessary in order to provide enhanced 911 services and programs and are, or will be, prudently incurred.

1. Administration

The 911 Department's projected FY 2025 Administration expenses include Salary Costs, Agency Expenses, and Capital Projects, totaling \$11,445,670. Attachment A. The largest line item in the Administration category is salary costs, which the 911 Department projects to be \$6,964,246 for FY 2025. *Id.* This represents a 1.78% increase over the FY 2024 actual salary costs of \$6,842,122. The 911 Department explains that this increase is needed to cover contractual step increases and cost-of-living adjustments required by union contracts. *See* Petition at 4. The 911 Department offered a similar explanation in D.T.C. 24-2 to explain a roughly 5.6% increase between FY 2024 projected salary costs and FY 2023 actual salary costs, which DTC determined was reasonable. *See Final Order* at 5-6, D.T.C. 24-2 (June 4, 2024) ("24-2 Order"). Further, under salary costs, the 911 Department projects that salary costs will increase from \$3,848,256 in actual expenditures in FY 2024 to \$4,517,028 in FY 2025. Attachment A. However, the 911 Department also projects that its indirect costs will decrease from \$1,128,366 in actual expenditures in FY 2024 to \$351,973 in FY 2025. *Id.* DTC requested that the 911 Department explain how its salary costs were calculated for FY 2025 to which the 911 Department responded that it had "anticipated the hiring of new employees to address staffing shortages, which in turn reduced the dollars needed to fund overtime. In addition, the 911 Department anticipated a reduction in the number of interns for FY 2025, thereby reducing the dollars spent on contract employees." IR 1-4.

The next largest line item is Capital Projects, which the 911 Department projects at \$3,372,500 for FY 2025. Attachment A. The 911 Department stated that \$1,000,000 of funding was

originally planned to be spent in FY 2024 for relocation of Wireless & Training Centers, the Radio Consolettes North Shore Regional 911 Center, and Radio Equipment and is now projected to be spent in FY 2025. *See* IR 1-3. Further, \$2,372,500 of funding will be spent on new projects. *Id.*

The other line item within the Administration category, Agency Expenses, is comprised of: (1) Employee Reimbursements; (2) Administrative Expenses; (3) Operational Supplies; (4) Utilities/Space Rental; (5) Consultant Services; (6) Operational Services; (7) Equipment Purchases; (8) Lease, Maintenance, Repair Services; (9) Building Maintenance and Repairs; and (10) IT Services and Equipment.<sup>5</sup> Petition at 4; Attachment A. The 911 Department's projected total Agency Expenses for FY 2025 are \$1,108,924, which is consistent with the 911 Department's FY 2024 projections of \$1,098,166 – a figure DTC determined to be reasonable in D.T.C. 24-2. Attachment A; *see also* 24-2 Order at 6.

Consistent with the 24-2 Order, DTC finds that the 911 Department's Administration expenses are necessary in order to provide enhanced 911 services and programs and are, or will be, prudently incurred.

## 2. Grant Programs

Massachusetts law requires the 911 Department to administer several grant programs related to the provision of enhanced 911 services. *See* G.L. c. 6A, § 18B(f), (i). The 911 Department's projected program expenditures for these categories in FY 2025 total \$197,416,224.<sup>6</sup> Attachment A. Massachusetts statute establishes minimum and/or maximum spending levels for several of the 911 Department's grant programs, spending beyond which requires the 911 Department to seek DTC

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<sup>5</sup> These categories and permissible associated expenses derive from the Office of the Comptroller of the Commonwealth, which oversees and implements the Commonwealth's accounting system. *See* 17-1 Order at 10.

<sup>6</sup> In 2019, DTC approved an increase in the RECC grant percentage of previous year's surcharge revenue to 10%. *See* 19-2 Order at 19-20.

approval. *See* G.L. c. 6A, § 18B(i). Even if the 911 Department’s projected expenditures for a particular grant do not exceed the spending minimums or maximums that trigger required DTC approval, DTC must determine whether projected spending for these grants in FY 2025 will be prudently incurred as a part of its review of the 911 Department’s total proposed FY 2025 expenditures.

The 911 Department proposes little change to the FY 2025 projected spending amount for the PSAP and RECC (“Regional Emergency Communication Center”) Training Grant (“Training Grant”)<sup>7</sup> as compared to the previous year’s projection. *See* Attachment A. The amount remains within the grant’s statutorily prescribed allocation. *See* G.L. c. 6A, § 18B(i)(1).

The 911 Department proposes little change to the FY 2025 projected spending amount for the FY 2025 Support Grant<sup>8</sup> as compared to the previous year. *See* Attachment A. The proposed FY 2025 expenditure remains within the grant’s statutorily prescribed allocation. *See* G.L. c. 6A, § 18B(i) (2).

The 911 Department proposes little change to the FY 2025 projected spending amount for the Emergency Medical Dispatch Grant (“EMD Grant”) as compared to the projections for the

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<sup>7</sup> The Training Grant is used to “reimburse primary, regional and regional secondary PSAPs and regional emergency communication centers for allowable expenses related to the training and certification of enhanced 911 telecommunicators.” G.L. c. 6A, § 18B(i)(1). Massachusetts law requires the 911 Department to allocate 5% of the prior year’s surcharge revenues to the Training Grant, or other amount determined by the 911 Department and approved by the 911 Commission but not less than 3.75% of the prior year’s surcharge revenues. *See id.*

<sup>8</sup> This grant reimburses: “primary, regional and regional secondary PSAPs and [RECCs] for allowable expenses related to enhanced 911 telecommunicator personnel costs, and the acquisition and maintenance of heat, ventilation and air-conditioning equipment and other environmental control equipment, computer-aided dispatch systems, console furniture, dispatcher chairs, radio consoles, and fire alarm receipt and alert equipment associated with providing enhanced 911 service; regional PSAPs and [RECCs] for allowable expenses related to the acquisition and maintenance of public safety radio systems; regional secondary PSAPs for allowable expenses related to PSAP customer premises equipment maintenance; and primary, regional, and regional secondary PSAPs and [RECCs] for any other equipment and related maintenance associated with providing enhanced 911 service as approved by the [911 Department].” G.L. c. 6A, § 18B(i)(2). Massachusetts law requires the 911 Department to allocate 25% of the prior year’s surcharge revenues to the Support Grant, or other amount determined by the 911 Department and adopted by the 911 Commission, but not less than 18.75% of the prior year’s surcharge revenues. *See id.*

previous year. *See* Attachment A. DTC approved the establishment of the EMD Grant with an initial allocation factor of 3% of the total surcharge revenues of the prior fiscal year. *See 11-2 Order* at 8-12. The projected FY 2025 expenditures for the EMD Grant remain below the initial allocation for this grant. *See id.*; *see also* Attachment A. DTC determines that projected FY 2025 expenditures for the Training, Support, and EMD Grants are necessary for the 911 Department to meet its statutory obligations, and finds that these projected expenditures are, or will be, prudently incurred.

The 911 Department proposes little change to the FY 2025 projected spending amount for the Wireless State Police Grant as compared to the projections for FY 2024. *See* Attachment A. The projected FY 2025 expenditures remain below 2% of the previous year's surcharge revenue and remains within the grant's statutorily prescribed allocation. *See* G.L. c. 6A, § 18B(i)(3).

Additionally, for each Incentive Grant, the proposed FY 2025 expenditures are within the approved allocation formulas and do not require additional DTC approval under G.L. c. 6A, § 18B(i)(4).<sup>9</sup> Because the projected expenditures on each of these grants are within approved allocations, DTC finds that they are, or will be, prudently incurred.

The 911 Department projections maintain the funding of \$50 million in FY 2025 for the Development Grant. *See* Attachment A. The Development Grant supports PSAP regionalization efforts to achieve the goal of maintaining an efficient and consistent 911 service, as discussed in greater detail below. *See Infra.* at 14-16. The 911 Department notes that 64 PSAPs have regionalized since the inception of the Development Grant in 2009. Petition at 7. The 911 Department contends that funding levels for this program will support the expected regionalization of 15 additional PSAPs over the next five years. *Id.* DTC has previously approved this FY 2025

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<sup>9</sup> The Department has allowed adjustments to two of the four statutory allocations, as permitted by G.L. c. 6A, § 18B(i)(4). *See Final Order* at 18-19, D.T.C. 22-1 (June 1, 2022) ("22-1 Order") (increasing to 3% the allocation for PSAPs serving three to nine municipalities;); *see also 24-2 Order* at 15 (increasing to 18% the RECC allocation).

projection. *See 24-2 Order* at 12-14.

DTC determines, for the reasons discussed above, that the 911 Department's projected grant expenses for FY 2025 are necessary for the 911 Department to meet its statutory obligations and are, or will be, prudently incurred.

### 3. 9-1-1 Administration & Operation

The third category of projected FY 2025 expenses is "9-1-1 Administration & Operation," which the 911 Department projects to be \$69,400,592 for FY 2025. Attachment A. As discussed below, DTC determines the 911 Department's projected 9-1-1 Administration & Operation expenses for FY 2025 are, or will be, prudently incurred, subject to the conditions DTC has placed on such expenditures.

#### a. *NG 911 (Recurring and Non-Recurring)*

The 911 Department awarded a five-year contract to NextGen Communications, Inc. (Comtech) on August 1, 2024 for the provision of Next Generation 911 products and services. Petition at 8; *see also* IR 1-19; *see also* IR 2-4. The 911 Department stated that \$983,296 of funding for non-recurring costs will be allocated to the "salary costs and ancillary expenses associated with [Comtech] to support evaluation and testing of a new call handling software solution." IR 1-19. For recurring expenditures, the 911 Department projects that it will spend \$29,625,496 for FY 2025, slightly higher than the \$27,126,850 spent in FY 2024. DTC finds that the projected FY 2025 recurring and non-recurring NG 911 expenses are necessary to achieve the 911 Department's statutorily mandated goals. These FY 2025 expenditures therefore are, or will be, prudently incurred.

#### b. *Statewide Radio Infrastructure*

The 911 Department projects that it will spend \$24,592,500 in FY 2025 on radio infrastructure, including on spending related to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Interoperable Radio System (“CoMIRS”). Attachment A; *see also* Petition at 8-13. The 911 Department provides detailed reporting on its radio infrastructure activities and spending. *See* Petition at 8-13. CoMIRS is “an existing statewide interoperable radio network that serves as the primary communications tool for many public safety-first responders including the Massachusetts State Police.” Petition at 8. PSAPs “utilize the CoMIRS network to quickly and efficiently dispatch and relay emergency 911 information to first responders.” *Id.* Through prior orders, DTC has ensured that 911 surcharge funds are not used on CoMIRS expenses unrelated to 911 functions. *See, e.g., 24-2 Order* at 9-11; *23-2 Order* at 9-10. For example, DTC directed the 911 Department to develop detailed formal guidance for the project administrator, the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (“EOTSS”), on how to determine whether an expenditure is related to 911 dispatch. *See 20-1 Order* at 15-16.

DTC also directed the 911 Department to include in its annual reports going forward, detailed information on compliance with these guidelines, including a detailed (1) account of CoMIRS project updates, (2) list of current fiscal year CoMIRS expenditures separate from its general operational expenditures, and (3) list of funding sources for the CoMIRS project, including the total CoMIRS cost and the funding contribution from each source. *See id.* at 16. Finally, DTC directed the 911 Department to file copies of the quarterly reports due to the 911 Department from EOTSS under the entities’ interdepartmental service agreement. *See id.* at 16.

DTC again finds that the 911 Department has complied with the above directives, which demonstrate how the 911 Department and EOTSS continue to ensure that 911 surcharge funds are spent only on 911 functions. *See, e.g., 911 Department Response to the DTC Order*, D.T.C. 20-1 (Sept. 9, 2020) (providing the requested EOTSS Guidance Document); *FY 2024 CoMIRS Annual Report*, D.T.C. 20-1 (Feb. 4, 2025). DTC therefore concludes that the 911 Department

has the appropriate mechanisms in place to monitor EOTSS's use of 911 surcharge funds.

Subject to and consistent with the findings and conditions DTC has placed on the use of 911 surcharge funds for CoMIRS, DTC finds that the 911 Department's proposed FY 2025 expenditures on the radio infrastructure projects are, or will be, prudently incurred.

c. *Wireless Center, 911 Call Center (North Shore), Interpretive Services (Language Line), Mobile PSAP*

The projected expenses for the Wireless Center, 911 Call Center (North Shore), Interpretive Services (Language Line), and Mobile PSAP for FY 2025 are largely unchanged from FY 2024 actual expenditures. *See* Attachment A. DTC finds that the 911 Department's proposed FY 2025 expenditures for these items are, or will be, prudently incurred.

d. *911 Call Center (Western)*

The 911 Department projects a new expense of \$1,030,000 for FY 2025 for the 911 Call Center (Western). *See* Attachment A. The 911 Department states that it has "assumed operational responsibility of a RECC located in Berkshire County that was previously under the supervision of the Berkshire County Sheriff. This RECC currently receives and processes 911 calls from twenty-six (26) municipalities." Petition at 14. The 911 Department states that its long-term plan for this RECC is "to organize its operation similar to other 911 Department PSAPs and to grow its operation as much as possible given the constraints of its current location at the Berkshire County Sheriff headquarters." IR 1-21. Further, the 911 Department has provided projections for this RECC through 2029 and has stated that it has reached an agreement with the Berkshire County Sheriff to use the location for a minimum of three years. *See id.*; *State 911 Department Petition – Attachment B*, D.T.C. 25-2 (Mar. 18, 2025). Accordingly, DTC finds that the 911 Department's proposed FY 2025 expenditures for the 911 Call Center (Western) are, or will be, prudently incurred.

#### 4. Programs

The final category of projected expenses in FY 2025 includes other Programs, for which the 911 Department projects \$1,879,374 in expenditures. Attachment A. This category comprises line items for training, public education, Specialized Customer Premise Equipment (“SCPE”), relay (telecommunications relay service or “TRS”), and CapTEL Captioned Telephone Service (“CapTel”).<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

The 911 Department’s projected expenses for training, SCPE, relay and CapTEL are substantially similar to the projected expenditures from the previous year. *See id.* For the public education program, the 911 Department projects \$50,000 in expenditures for FY 2025, previously projected \$25,000 for FY 2024, and had \$3,170 in final expenditures in FY 2024. *Id.* DTC requested further background for the training program expenditures and projections to which the 911 Department responded that it, as a state agency, often received free attendance to certain events even though it had budgeted for needing to pay for such attendance and that it was attempting to implement a statewide public education campaign program. *See Tr.* at 23-24.

DTC finds that the 911 Department’s projected FY 2025 expenses associated with these Programs are necessary to provide enhanced 911 services and adequately fund the programs, and are, or will be, prudently incurred.

#### 5. Conclusion

DTC determines that the 911 Department’s projected FY 2025 expenditures are reasonable and are, or will be, prudently incurred, consistent with the above. Accordingly, DTC approves the expenditures pursuant to G.L. c. 6A, §§ 18B, 18H(b), (c).

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<sup>10</sup> The 911 Department is statutorily mandated to administer the SCPE, TRS and CapTel programs. *See* G.L. c. 166, § 15E.

B. Analysis of FY 2026 Development Grant Amount

The 911 Department seeks approval to maintain the Development Grant allocation of \$50 million for FY 2026. Petition at 16-18. The 911 Department projected Development Grant expenditures of \$40 million for FY 2024 and \$50 million for FY 2025, with projected Rollover Development Grant expenses for FY 2025 of \$36,381,101. Attachment A. State law requires the 911 Department to obtain DTC approval of any adjustment in the Development Grant that increases the initial funding allocated to the Development Grant—\$7.5 million—by 10% or more. G.L. c. 6A, § 18B(i)(5).

The Development Grant was established by statute to, “support the development and startup of regional and regional secondary PSAPs and [RECCs], including the expansion or upgrade of existing regional and regional secondary PSAPs.” *Id.* The purpose of the Development Grant is to “maximize effective emergency 911 and dispatch services as well as regional interoperability.” *Id.* In accordance with statutory requirements, the 911 Department has established guidelines regarding the “eligibility for criteria, amount and allocation of funding,” with the approval of the State 911 Commission. *Id.* The 911 Department states that on December 6, 2024, the State 911 Commission voted unanimously to authorize the 911 Department to seek DTC approval of a \$50 million allocation amount for FY 2026. Petition at 17.

The 911 Department states that it has received total grant requests for more than \$106 million for FY 2025. *Id.* The 911 Department notes that 64 PSAPs have regionalized since the inception of the Development Grant in 2009. *See* Petition at 7. Further, statutory changes since the creation of the Development Grant have facilitated municipalities’ efforts to establish regional PSAPs and RECCs through the creation of regional 911 emergency communication districts. *See* 2014 Mass. Acts, c. 500 (codified at G.L. c. 6A, §§ 18O-18V (2015)).

DTC finds that the 911 Department's requested Development Grant allocation amount is necessary to meet its statutory obligation to maximize effective 911 services and regional interoperability, and that expenditures related to this funding level will be prudently incurred. Accordingly, DTC approves the Development Grant allocation of \$50 million for FY 2026.

### III. CONCLUSION

DTC finds that all FY 2025 expenses have been prudently incurred based on not only a review of this year's expenses but also comparing them to expenses from previous fiscal years. DTC finds that the 911 Department's requested Development Grant allocation amount is necessary to meet its statutory obligation to maximize effective 911 services and regional interoperability, and that expenditures related to this funding level will be prudently incurred.

### IV. ORDER

Accordingly, after notice, hearing, and due consideration, it is:

ORDERED: That the 911 Department's proposed FY 2025 expenditures are APPROVED;

FURTHER ORDERED: That the 911 Department's proposed allocation for the Development Grant for FY 2026 is APPROVED; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Petition satisfies the requirement of G.L. c. 6A, § 18H(b) that the 911 Department file an annual report on the financial condition of the Enhanced 911 Fund.

By Order of the DTC,



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Karen Charles  
Commissioner

## **RIGHT OF APPEAL**

Pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 5, and G.L. c. 166A, § 2, an appeal as to matters of law from any final decision, order or ruling of the Department may be taken to the Supreme Judicial Court for the County of Suffolk by an aggrieved party in interest by the filing of a written petition asking that the Order of the Department be modified or set aside in whole or in part. Such petition for appeal shall be filed with the Secretary of the Department within twenty (20) days after the date of service of the decision, order or ruling of the Department, or within such further time as the Department may allow upon request filed prior to the expiration of the twenty (20) days after the date of service of said decision, order or ruling. Within ten (10) days after such petition has been filed, the appealing party shall enter the appeal in the Supreme Judicial Court for the County of Suffolk by filing a copy thereof with the Clerk of said Court. Appeals of Department Orders on basic service tier cable rates, associated equipment, or whether a franchising authority has acted consistently with the federal Cable Act may also be brought pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 76.944.