

Statewide Public Safety Communication System (SPSCS): Alternative Funding Systems

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Presentation Overview



Brief overview of where the SPSCS currently stands



Review of potential alternative funding options



Current Montana SPSCS Overview



Statewide system components

- Core network operations equipment
- 75 radio repeater tower sites
- 16 dispatch centers with 60+ console positions
 - 16,000+ radio users across state, local & federal agencies
- 175 microwave backhaul links supporting system connectivity



Investment to date

- Over \$45M invested in core system elements
- Over \$90M total when including towers, shelters, and construction

• Funding Status

- Prior \$3.75M annual appropriation eliminated via [HB 251](#) (2023)
- Replaced with a one-time \$18.6M transfer
- After debt payments, only ~\$2M remained for operations
- Program projected to run out of funding by July 1, 2027

Funding Levels



2019 Costs

Contracts and “loans”

- \$2.75 million

Operations and some expansion

- \$1 million



2026 Costs With Inflation

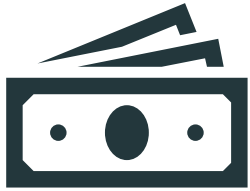
Contracts and “loans”

- \$0, debts repaid via [HB 2 \(2025\)](#)
([Section D pg. 2](#))

Operations

- ~\$1.6 million

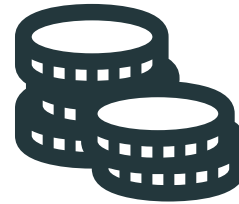
State and Local Funds



State Funding

Appropriations to MTEC

State Grant Programs



Local Funding

Bonds

General Funds

Federal Funding

911 Surcharges

Montana System

- Current 911 fee is \$1 per line with \$.75 directed to the funding of 911 programs and \$.25 directed to fund state grants pertaining to 911 programs

Other States

- Increased Fees
- Temporary Increases
- Multipurpose

Special Taxes



Local Option Sales Taxes



“Vice” Taxes



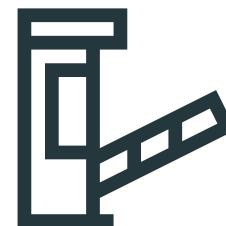
Cannabis Revenue

System User Fees



Montana

- State and local partnership
- Some contracts with nonstate entities



Other States

- Member and nonmember fee rates
- Tiered fee system depending on use cases

Vehicular Revenue



Traffic Tickets



Vehicle Registration Fees



Vehicle Surcharges

Leasing & Partnerships



Public Private Partnerships



Leasing Tower Locations



Leasing "Airwaves"