



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Department of Emergency Management

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March 31, 2023

Senator Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair
Representative Paul Evans, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Public Safety
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

This letter is in response to questions raised during the March 30, 2023 hearing of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means, Subcommittee on Public Safety.

Question: How are 9-1-1 funds distributed?

Tax Revenue: \$80M annually

9-1-1 Tax Allocation Summary:

1. A maximum of six-tenths of one percent of the amount in the Emergency Communications Account can be used for costs incurred by the Department of Revenue to collect the tax from telecommunications companies and address any remittance issues.
2. A maximum of 2.4 percent can be used for Department of Emergency Management administrative costs carrying out duties outlined within ORS 403.200 to 403.230.
3. 35% of the tax collection is allocated to the 9-1-1 Subaccount for funding statewide call delivery infrastructure, databases and 9-1-1 call taking equipment at the PSAP/9-1-1 Center level.
4. After all amounts associated with items 1-3 above have been paid, the remaining quarterly tax collection balance is allocated directly in a form of a distribution to each of the statewide 9-1-1 Jurisdictions representing between 60-65% of the total tax collection depending on DOR and ODEM actual quarterly expenses.

Local 9-1-1 jurisdiction tax allocation formula for reaching quarterly distribution as described in item #4 above:

Once items (1-3 above) have been paid or credited, the department shall allocate the balance of the Emergency Communications Account to cities on a per capita basis and to counties on a per capita basis of each county's unincorporated area for distribution directly to 9-1-1 jurisdictions as directed by the city or county. However, each county must be credited a minimum of one percent of the balance of the account. (Note: DAS utilizes Portland State University Research Center data for the basis of the population data)

Direct Local Jurisdiction Tax Distribution: \$50M Annually

Question: How many entities receive the funds?

1. 14 payments directly to counties.
2. 17 payments directly to cities
3. 11 payments to special districts or 9-1-1 jurisdictions established by ORS 190 intergovernmental agreement.

Below is a listing of a quarterly allocation of funds to the 43 jurisdictions. This information can also be found on our [Emergency Communications Tax website](#).

DISTRIBUTION BASED ON RESPECTIVE POPULATIONS

NAME	AMOUNT
COUNTY OF BAKER	148,858.56
CITY OF CORVALLIS	270,023.02
CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO	202,911.20
COUNTY OF CLACKAMAS	763,276.33
CITY OF ASTORIA	135,123.01
CITY OF SEASIDE	48,330.33
CITY OF COOS BAY	45,401.51
COUNTY OF COOS	165,009.75
CITY OF PRINEVILLE	147,096.77
CITY OF BROOKINGS	77,689.48
COUNTY OF CURRY	67,815.52
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS	253,263.69
COUNTY OF HARNEY	132,049.85
COUNTY OF HOOD RIVER	143,956.33
CITY OF LAKEVIEW	128,118.06
CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE	44,589.16
CITY OF EUGENE	775,471.48
CITY OF FLORENCE	47,580.43
CITY OF LINCOLN CITY	22,826.60
CITY OF TOLEDO	8,187.82
COUNTY OF LINN	352,479.46
COUNTY OF MALHEUR	161,277.49
CITY OF SALEM	980,226.03
COUNTY OF MORROW	140,514.29
CITY OF PORTLAND	1,947,838.54
CITY OF MILTON FREEWATER	16,201.06
COUNTY OF UMATILLA	238,369.12
COUNTY OF UNION	166,501.72
COUNTY OF WALLOWA	131,761.86
COUNTY OF WASCO	162,005.35
CITY OF NEWBERG	106,392.87
KLAMATH COUNTY 9-1-1 COMMU	178,167.86
EMERGENCY COMM. S. OREGON	507,521.74
COLUMBIA COUNTY COMMUNICAT	191,573.13
METCOM 9-1-1	234,594.56
DESCHUTES COUNTY 9-1-1 SER	461,181.53
WASHINGTON COUNTY CONSOLID	1,370,372.88
JOSEPHINE COUNTY 9-1-1	216,440.48
TILLAMOOK COUNTY 9-1-1	145,586.61
YAMHILL COUNTY COMMUNICATI	218,201.43
FRONTIER REGIONAL 9-1-1	519,256.46
GRANT COUNTY EMERGENCY COM	131,895.63
TOTALS	12,205,939.00

Question: How many ARES volunteers are there and what resources do they have?

ARES Summary

- Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) is a private nonprofit organization headquartered within the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) at the national level.
- Oregon ARES consists of six districts and 22 active units throughout the state. None of the six districts have an active emergency coordinator at this time. Three of the 22 active units also don't have an active emergency coordinator at this time.
- Of the 22 active ARES units in Oregon, about half include only ARES members. Most of them include non-ARES members.
- Many working relationships between ARES units and county emergency managers are challenging. The challenges stem from an incident that occurred about 7 years ago and created issues in the state and nationwide.
- Two of the ARES units are considered "rogue" because they don't coordinate activities with county emergency management. This means OEM will not accept information directly from the unit. The OEM communications officer (Doug Jimenez) is working with the units and local emergency managers to improve their working relationships. The ARES units are aware that we can't take information from them without approval from the county emergency manager.

Status and future of auxiliary communications

- Several counties have non-ARES auxiliary communications units that function under the Auxiliary Communications Services (ACS) Model. Lincoln County is one example of a county that has a successfully unit using the ACS (also known as AuxComm) Model.
- Most counties have expressed interest in moving toward a hybrid ARES/non-ARES AuxComm model for communications units.
- AuxComm recently was added to the National Qualification Standard (NQS). AuxComm courses and certifications are offered through DHS-CISA.

Radio systems

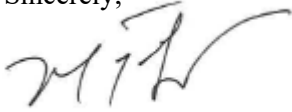
- Thirty-two counties and one tribe have operational amateur radio stations.
- Much of the amateur radio equipment purchased by the legislature in 2008 is still in use, although it is outdated. Some of the equipment has failed over time and has been replaced through local sources. Most of the outdated equipment can't function in new modes of operation and are used primarily as back-up systems, in the event that newer systems fail.

Volunteers

- ODEM does not maintain a list of volunteers. Counties and tribes manage their own communications units and ARES is an independent group.

Thank you for the questions. Please feel free to contact me if any further clarification is needed; I can be reached at matt.l.garrett@oem.oregon.gov or 503-378-3933.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Garrett', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Matthew L. Garrett
Interim Director