CHAPTER 725 - ST. LOUIS COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM COMMISSION

Section 725.010 - Commission established.

1. The St. Louis County Emergency Communications System Commission is established within the geographical boundaries of St. Louis County.

2. The Commission shall be composed of seven (7) commissioners who are residents of the County and appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by the County Council. The Commission shall include a chief of police of a municipality located within the County, the Superintendent of the St. Louis County Police Department, a chief of a municipal fire department located within the County, a chief of a fire protection district located within the County, and three (3) at-large commissioners. The commissioner who is a municipal police chief shall be chosen from those persons nominated by a police chief's association in the County. The commissioners who are chiefs of either a municipal fire department or fire protection district shall be chosen by those persons nominated by a fire chiefs association located in the County. One (1) at-large commissioner shall be chosen from among those persons nominated by a municipal league or organization located in the County. At least two (2) of the at-large commissioners shall be persons who are not employed by a fire department or district, or by a police department, or by an emergency medical system, or who are not elected or appointed officials of a political subdivision of the State or are not employed by the State of Missouri.

3. The terms of office of the commissioner who is the Superintendent of the St. Louis County Police Department shall be coterminous with such person's term of office as Superintendent. At the first meeting of the Commission, the other commissioners shall choose the length of their terms, with two (2) commissioners serving for two (2) years, three (3) commissioners serving for three (3) years and one (1) commissioner serving for four (4) years. All succeeding commissioners shall serve for five (5) years. Terms shall end on December 31 of the respective year. No commissioner shall serve for more than two (2) consecutive full terms. A commissioner who is not an at-large commissioner shall remain in office only so long as he or she retains office with the department or district that such commissioner served at the time such person was appointed to the commission. Vacancies on the
commission shall be filled by such persons appointed by the County Executive in the same manner by which the commissioner whose office is vacant was first appointed.

(O. No. 21238, 1-21-03)

725.020 - Funding for support of the system; levy of tax, issuance of bonds.

1. By a majority vote of the qualified voters voting thereon, the County may levy and collect a tax on the taxable real property in the County, not to exceed six cents ($0.06) per one hundred dollars ($100.00) of assessed valuation or a sales tax not to exceed one-tenth (1/10) of one (1) percent, for the purpose of providing necessary funds to establish, operate and maintain the emergency communications system established by this chapter; or to supplement existing funds for the system. Any such vote shall be placed before the electorate by ordinance and shall be substantially in the form set out in Section 650.399 R.S.Mo. (2000).

2. The County may issue bonds for and on behalf of the County payable out of the sales tax or real property tax authorized by this section, for the purpose of supporting the operations and other purposes of the emergency communications system. Whenever the commission proposes to issue bonds pursuant to this section, the County shall submit the question to the voters according to the procedure and in substantially the form described in Section 650.408 R.S.Mo. (2000).

3. The County shall not sell such bonds for less than ninety-five (95) percent of the par value thereof, and the proceeds shall be paid over to the county treasurer, and disbursed on warrants drawn by the president or vice president of the board of commissioners and attested by the secretary. The proceeds of the sale of such bonds shall be used for the purpose only of paying the cost of holding such election, and constructing, repairing and maintaining the emergency communication system and its appurtenances.

4. Such bonds shall be payable and collectible only out of moneys derived from tax revenues authorized by this chapter, from the sale of such bonds or from interest that may accrue on funds so derived while on deposit with any County depositary. The Accounting Officer shall hold in reserve, for payment of interest on such bonds, a sufficient amount of the money so derived that may come into his or her hands in excess of the amount then necessary to pay all bonds and interest then past due, to pay all interest that will become payable before the next installment of such special tax becomes payable, and three (3) percent of the principal amount of the bonds not then due. The Accounting Officer shall, whenever any of the bonds or interest thereon become due, apply such money as may be in his or her custody and applicable thereto, or that may thereafter come into his or her custody and be applicable thereto, to payment of such bonds and interest as may be due and unpaid.

5. All money derived from the taxes authorized pursuant to this chapter shall be used in paying the bonds and the interest thereon, except that the money that may be collected pursuant to such taxes in excess of the amount necessary to pay all bonds then past due and such bonds and interest as will become payable before another assessment of such tax becomes payable may, less an amount equal to three (3) percent of the principal amount of the bonds not then due, be used for the purposes authorized in this chapter.

6. The Accounting Officer shall, as such bonds are sold, deliver them to the purchaser upon being ordered to do so by the commissioners. The Accounting Officer shall cancel bonds as such bonds are paid, and shall deliver them to the Administrative Director.

7. All money derived from the sale of bonds pursuant to this chapter except such portion as is required to be reserved pursuant to subsections 4 and 5 of this section, all money collected on any tax authorized according to this section and all interest that may accrue on moneys so derived while deposited with any county depositary and not required to be used in paying such bonds or interest thereon, shall be used, and warrants drawn on the county treasurer therefor, to pay:
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(1) The cost and expenses incurred by the emergency communications system commissioners in maintaining any real or personal property used in the operation of the emergency communication system for which the system was organized; and

(2) Such working, administrative and incidental expenses, not otherwise provided by law, as may be incurred in operating such emergency communications system.

(O. No. 21238, 1-21-03)

725.030 - Emergency Communications System Fund.
—There is established the "Emergency Communications System Fund." All funds collected from any tax authorized by this chapter shall be deposited therein. The fund shall be administered by the commission to accomplish the purposes of the system set out in this chapter, and for no other purpose.

(O. No. 21238, 1-21-03)

725.040 - Powers and responsibilities of the commission.
—The commission shall have the following powers and responsibilities:

(1) To supervise and administer, within the Purchasing Code, the building, acquisitions by purchase or otherwise, construction and operation of an emergency communications system for St. Louis County; and

(2) To administratively control and manage the emergency communications system; and

(3) To negotiate and recommend to the County Council that the County contract with such companies or other business entities which in the opinion of the commission are necessary to provide equipment, material and professional services to establish, construct and maintain an emergency communications system and conduct the business of the commission; and

(4) To promulgate an annual report of the financial condition and operation of the commission and the emergency communications system; and

(5) To recommend to the County Council that the County purchase or acquire by gift such real estate and equipment and materials necessary to accomplish the purposes of the commission and the system; and

(6) To adopt such bylaws, rules and regulations as in the opinion of the commission shall best serve the purpose of the commission.

(O. No. 21238, 1-21-03)

725.050. - Contracts for Use of Public Property.
—The director of highways and Traffic, on behalf of St. Louis County, is authorized to execute contracts and accept easements from political subdivisions of the State of Missouri for use of property for placement, repair and operation of towers, antennas, sirens and other facilities pertaining to the emergency communications system. Such contracts shall contain provisions regarding the responsibilities of the parties as to maintenance and repair, and shall not require payment of St. Louis County funds to property owners. The contracts authorized herein shall contain such terms and conditions as are approved by the county counselor.

(O. No. 24358, 5-4-10)