

RAPIDES PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 003

Ordinance updating the emergency telephone service charge on **Voice over internet protocol services (VOIP)** collections

AN ORDINANCE RELATIVE TO LA. R.S. 33:9101 ET SEQ. AS AMENDED BY THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE, UPDATING THE EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE CHARGE ON WIRELESS CMRS CONNECTION TO AUTHORIZE ASSESSMENT OF INTERCONNECTED VOICE OVER INTERNET PROTOCOL SERVICES AS DEFINED IN 47 CFR 9.3, TO COLLECT INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF SAID SERVICE CHARGE TO BE LEVIED WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE DISTRICT, TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, during the 1999 Session of the Louisiana Legislature, Act 1029 was enacted, which allowed the Parish Communications District (District) to establish/increase by resolution or ordinance of the Board a service fee on wireless services; and

WHEREAS, through the enactment of Act Number 665 of 2016 (Regular Session) the state of Louisiana has authorized the various communications districts of the state, including the District, to authorize the assessment of interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services as defined in 47 CFR 9.3; and

WHEREAS, through the enactment of the said Act Number 665 of 2016 (Regular Session) the State of Louisiana has found that it is in the public interest for 9-1-1 systems operated by the communications districts within Louisiana to provide Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) service to the public when the necessary technological requirements can be met and sufficient funding to make these improvements becomes available; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Ordinance is to provide additional funding for NG911, E9-1-1, 9-1-1 call taking, dispatch, telecommunication systems for notification of first responders and for other lawful purposes of the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE RAPIDES PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT THAT:

SECTION 1: There is hereby levied an emergency telephone service charge on all interconnected Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service connection as described in LA R.S. 33:9109(C)(4) and shall be levied for each connection that has a billing address within the District at the following rates: Residential VOIP at \$2.25 per access line and Business VOIP at \$8.00 per access line.

SECTION 2: The said emergency telephone service charge shall be collected from service users unless otherwise exempt from taxation, and the avails of said emergency telephone service charge shall be expended as authorized by Part I of Chapter 31 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

SECTION 3: All ordinances and resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4: If any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

SECTION 5: The effective date of this ordinance is October 1, 2025.

WHERE UPON THIS ORDINANCE WAS SUBMITTED TO A VOTE AND RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING:

YEAS: Darrell Basco, Vernon Creecy, Sam Debona, Paul Fuselier, Marcus Sandoval,
Ryan Spiller, Tigner and Russell Turnage

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Jason Dewitt

This Ordinance was declared duly adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Rapides Parish Communications District on June 11, 2025.

RAPIDES PARISH COMMUNICATION DISTRICT

BY: 

RYAN SPILLER, CHAIRMAN