Washington State Auditor’s Office
Accountability Audit Report

North East King County Regional Public Safety Communication Agency (NORCOM)

Report Date
September 21, 2012

Report No. 1008712

Issue Date
December 17, 2012
December 17, 2012

Board of Directors
NORCOM
Bellevue, Washington

Report on Accountability

We appreciate the opportunity to work in cooperation with your Agency to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The State Auditor’s Office takes seriously our role to advocate for government accountability and transparency and to promote positive change.

Please find attached our report on the NORCOM’s accountability and compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures. Thank you for working with us to ensure the efficient and effective use of public resources.

Sincerely,

BRIAN SONNTAG, CGFM
STATE AUDITOR
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ABOUT THE AUDIT

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the NORCOM from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

We evaluated internal controls and performed audit procedures on the activities of the Agency. We also determined whether the Agency complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity or area. Instead, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of noncompliance, misappropriation or misuse. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- General disbursements
- Payroll disbursements
- Cash receipting
- Procurement – purchases

RESULTS

In the areas we examined, the Agency’s internal controls were adequate to safeguard public assets. The Agency also complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures in the areas we examined.
FINANCIAL

Our opinion on the Agency’s financial statements and compliance with federal grant program requirements is provided in a separate report, which includes the Agency’s financial statements.

FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS

We evaluated internal controls and tested compliance with the federal program requirements, as applicable, for the Agency’s major federal program, which is listed in the Federal Summary section of the financial statement and single audit report.
Description of the Agency

NORCOM
King County
September 21, 2012

ABOUT THE AGENCY

The North East King County Regional Public Safety Communication Agency (NORCOM) was formed in November 2008. The Agency was created through an inter-local agreement among seven cities and seven fire districts on the east side of King County. The Agency’s purpose is to establish, maintain and operate a public safety communications center. The Agency serves over 700,000 citizens through the 911 system and provides communication services for 16 public entities.

A 15-member Board governs the Agency and appoints an Executive Director to administer its services. In 2011 the Agency employed approximately 80 people. The Agency’s 2011 annual operating budget was $11.3 million.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

These officials served during the audit period:

Board of Directors:
- Brad Miyake, City of Bellevue
- Bob Van Horne, City of Bothell
- Mitch Wasserman, City of Clyde Hill
- Kurt Triplett, City of Kirkland
- Donna Hanson, City of Medina
- Rich Conrad, City of Mercer Island
- Bob Larson, City of Snoqualmie
- John Lambert, Duvall Fire District No. 45
- Lee Sopitch, Eastside Fire & Rescue
- Chris Connor, Fire District No. 27
- James Knisley, Fire District No. 50
- Tom Weathers, Northshore Fire District
- Mark Bunje, Shoreline Fire District
- Jay Wiseman, Snoqualmie Pass Fire District
- Mark Chubb, Woodinville Fire & Life Safety

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Executive Director:
- Pam Bissonnette (interim effective December 2011)
- Chris Fishcer (resigned November 2011)
AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Address:   NORCOM  
P.O. Box 50911  
Bellevue, WA  98015-0911  

Phone: (425) 577-5671  
Website: www.norcom.org

AUDIT HISTORY

We audit the Agency annually. The Agency has been free of findings since its formation in 2008.
ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the state's Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the citizens of Washington and serves four-year terms.

Our mission is to work with our audit clients and citizens as an advocate for government accountability. As an elected agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits and investigations. Our audits are designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

The State Auditor's Office employees are located around the state to deliver services effectively and efficiently.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with state, federal and local laws on the part of all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments and fraud, whistleblower and citizen hotline investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our Web site and through our free, electronic subscription service.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously. We provide training and technical assistance to governments and have an extensive quality assurance program.

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