



STATE OF KANSAS

## Office of the Attorney General

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Curt T. Schneider  
Attorney General

July 16, 1976

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION NO. 76-221

Mr. Thomas W. Stockwell  
City Attorney of Merriam  
Suite 302  
Santa Fe Trail State Bank Building  
Highway 50 at Antioch  
Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66202

Re: Cities--Emergency Communications Systems--Contributions

Synopsis: Cities may contribute from duly budgeted funds for the joint operation of a dispatcher or emergency communication system established pursuant to K.S.A. 65-4303, regardless of the availability of county funds to support such dispatcher or system.

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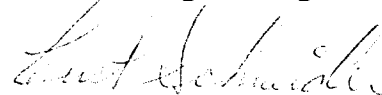
Dear Mr. Stockwell:

You advise that several years ago, cities in northeast Johnson County, including the City of Merriam, Kansas, a municipality of the second class, budgeted monies in order to defray the cost of maintaining a fire dispatcher for the northeastern portion of the county. In December, 1975, the board of county commissioners of Johnson County established an emergency communications system, pursuant to K.S.A. 1975 Supp. 65-4303, which in essence provided the services formerly provided by the dispatcher funded by the cities. The City of Merriam has paid in its first half of its proportionate share for the operation of the dispatcher board for the year 1976, and the last half of its contribution will be due in the near future. Several of the cities in the northeast quadrant of the county have questioned the legality of the respective cities making further contributions for this service on the ground that the county had no funding for the operation of its emergency communication system when established in December

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of 1975. I see no legal objection to payment by the cities involved of their budgeted contributions for the continued operation of the dispatcher board. Establishment of the emergency communication system pursuant to K.S.A. 1975 Supp. 65-4303 does not, as I understand it, affect the authority of the cities involved to make contributions for that purpose, regardless of the county funding provided for that purpose.

Yours very truly,



CURT T. SCHNEIDER  
Attorney General

CTS:JRM:kj