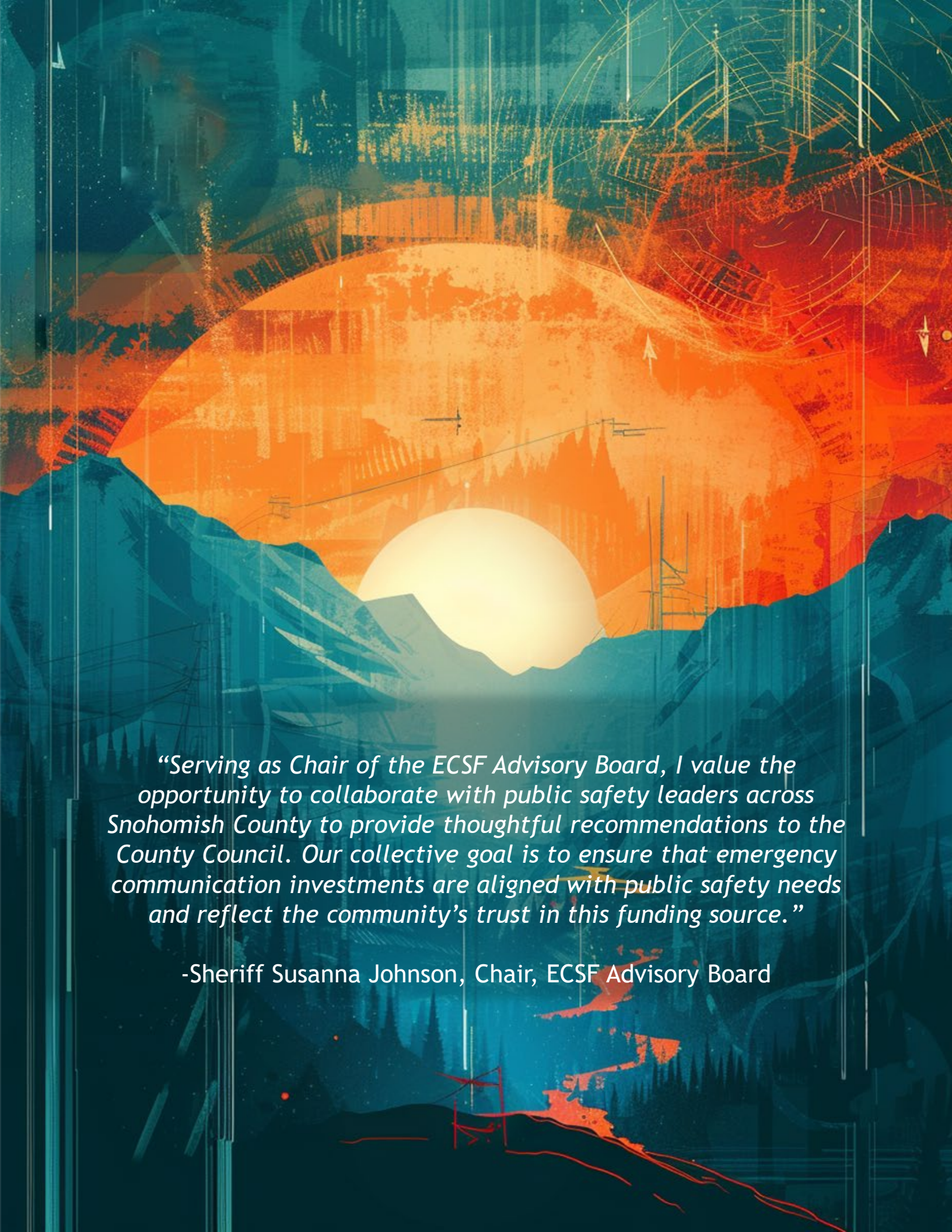




2025 Community Impact Report

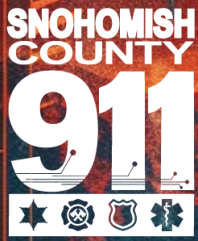
**Snohomish County Emergency
Communication Systems &
Facilities (ECSF)**

December 2025



“Serving as Chair of the ECSF Advisory Board, I value the opportunity to collaborate with public safety leaders across Snohomish County to provide thoughtful recommendations to the County Council. Our collective goal is to ensure that emergency communication investments are aligned with public safety needs and reflect the community’s trust in this funding source.”

-Sheriff Susanna Johnson, Chair, ECSF Advisory Board



Snohomish County Emergency Communication Systems & Facilities (ECSF)

*2025 Community Impact Report
December 3, 2025*

Advisory Board Members:

Chair:

Sheriff Susanna Johnson

Fire Commissioner:

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue Commissioner Roy Waugh

City Official:

Marysville Mayor Jon Nehring

City Official:

Brier Mayor Dale Kaemingk

City Official:

Mukilteo City Councilmember Tom Jordal

City Police Chief:

Everett Police Chief John DeRousse

City Fire Chief: Marysville Fire Chief Ned Vander Pol

County Council Representative:

Nate Nehring

County Executive's Designee:

Ken Klein, Executive Director, Snohomish County

Executive Summary

In 2018, voters approved Proposition 1 to fund the modernization of Snohomish County's aging emergency radio infrastructure through a dedicated 0.1% sales tax. This report provides an overview of how the ECSF tax has been collected, allocated, and used to advance public safety communications from 2019 through 2025.

About the ECSF Tax

The Emergency Communication Systems and Facilities (ECSF) sales tax was enacted countywide beginning April 1, 2019. This tax is legally restricted to public safety communications systems and infrastructure. It cannot be diverted for general fund purposes. Key uses include replacing an end-of-life radio network facing hardware failures and supply shortages, delivering modern features previously unavailable, and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Transparency & Oversight

The ECSF Advisory Board provides structured oversight of the tax and ensures that all spending is aligned with **authorized uses under Washington State law (RCW 82.14.420)**.

The Board is composed of elected officials, fire and law enforcement leaders, and representatives from across Snohomish County who bring operational and fiscal insight to the process.

In addition to annual budgeting and public meetings, the Board takes a **pragmatic, future-focused approach**—placing strong emphasis on **long-range planning and financial sustainability**.

This includes setting aside reserves for future system replacements, facility needs, and evolving technologies, so that the next generation of emergency communication infrastructure can be funded **without requiring new taxes**.

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All decisions are guided by transparency, collaboration, and a shared commitment to ensuring that **every dollar spent delivers durable, countywide public safety value.**

Commitment (2018)	Status (2025)
Replace failing SERS radio system	✓ Complete system cutover (May 2025) ✓ Emergency paging system replaced ✓ Microwave and Backhaul ✓ Emergency power systems
Provide new radios to every responder	✓ 5,000+ encryption capable radios installed and distributed at a cost of roughly \$23M
Expand coverage countywide	✓ 22 sites online, including two new towers (Machias site anticipated completion in 2026)
Improved Regional Interoperability	✓ Direct interconnection with King County & transitioning to non-proprietary platform
Support long-term maintenance	✓ Lifecycle reserve and maintenance plan in place

Funding the Radio Project

The \$72.2M Radio Replacement Project (RRP) was funded by a \$35M bond and direct project contributions from ECSF tax revenue. Bond repayments are allocated each year and are planned through 2034.

Project Budget and Expenditures through 2024:

Category	Adopted Project Budget	Amended Project Budget ¹	Expenditures through 12/31/2024
Project Management	\$5,739,576	\$6,050,576	\$3,981,457
Motorola Infrastructure²	\$33,686,461	\$33,686,461	\$24,950,386
Subscribers³	\$16,894,588	\$22,236,425	\$23,345,211
Contingency	\$10,546,678	\$10,235,678	\$5,551,785
TOTAL	\$66,867,303	\$72,209,140	\$57,828,839
¹ Amended on September 16, 2021			
² Includes Fire Paging scope			
³ Change order 6 added additional radios that were funded from contingency			

Supporting the Radio System Long-Term

To ensure that the public safety radio system remains reliable, current, and resilient for years to come, ECSF funding supports a long-term strategy for ongoing upgrades, maintenance, and infrastructure sustainability.

✓ System Update Service (SUS)

SNO911 has contracted for two major system upgrades through 2028 as part of Motorola's System Update Service (SUS). This ensures that the core infrastructure stays up-to-date with supported software versions and avoids potential gaps in vendor support.

✓ Maintenance and Operations Funding

Ongoing ECSF allocations are used to support third-party service providers for system maintenance, performance monitoring, and security updates to ensure high reliability of critical communications.

✓ Hardware & Infrastructure Reserve

A dedicated reserve fund ensures long-term sustainability of the system by supporting:

- Additional radio site development
- Console replacements for dispatch center
- Scheduled replacements of essential infrastructure such as:
 - Generators
 - Shelter roofs
 - HVAC systems
 - Microwave backhaul
 - Service vehicles

✓ Lifecycle Replacement of Radios & Future System Funding

Planning is already underway for the **next lifecycle replacement of radios**, anticipated to be needed around 2037. ECSF reserves are being **strategically set aside** to ensure SNO911 can fund the **next-generation public safety radio system** without requiring new taxes or a return to voters.

Supporting Long-Term Infrastructure: Future Facility Investment

While replacing radios and towers was the core of the Radio Replacement Project, long-term success also depends on the facilities that house the critical systems behind them. ECSF funding helped make the SNO911 Future Facility a reality—providing secure, resilient infrastructure for the region's **radio core, microwave network, paging systems, and cybersecurity operations**. The Future Facility project was financed through a **blend of direct ECSF contributions and long-term bond repayment**, ensuring durable infrastructure without the need for new taxes.



Future Facility Project Contributions from ECSF:

Year	Purpose	Amount
2022	Facility Project Fund	\$1,250,000
2023	Facility Project Fund	\$3,000,000
2024	Facility Project Fund	\$1,912,987
2025	Facility Project Fund	\$3,000,000
Total (2022-2025)		\$9,162,987

Ongoing Facility-Related Commitments

In addition to upfront contributions, ECSF funding continues to support the Future Facility through several key long-term investments:

- ✓ **Future Facility Bond Repayment (2022–2037)**
A 15-year debt service agreement ensures the capital investment is repaid steadily over time.
- ✓ **Facility Infrastructure Reserve**
A lifecycle reserve is being built to support long-term upkeep, including HVAC systems, backup power, building systems, and IT infrastructure upgrades.
- ✓ **Backup Facility Remodel Project**
ECSF also supports upgrades to the backup dispatch and radio site, enhancing operational continuity and resilience in the event of disruption.

Supporting SNO911 Operations

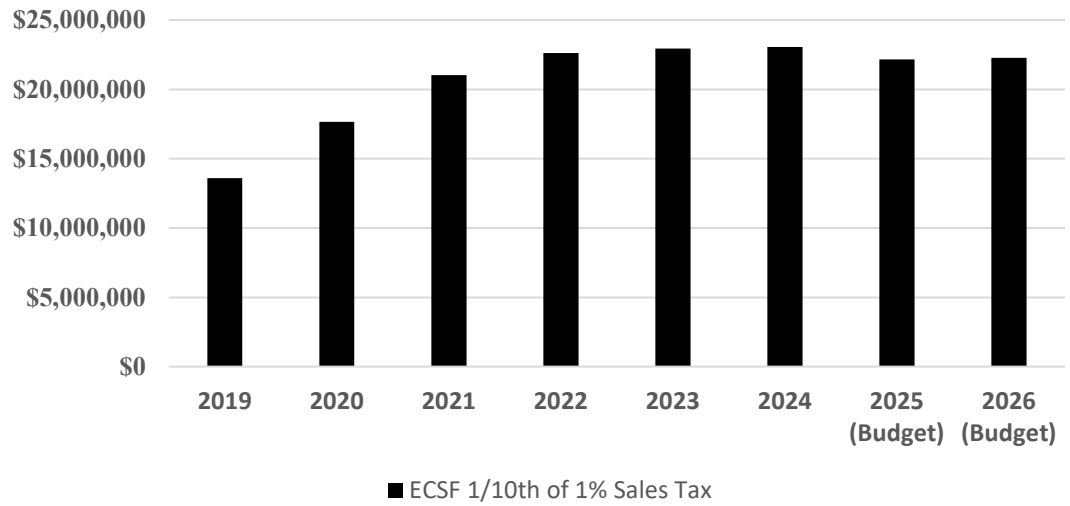
In addition to system upgrades and infrastructure, ECSF funding also helps sustain **SNO911’s day-to-day operations**. These funds support **radio technicians, IT staff, and maintenance contracts** that ensure the emergency radio system is monitored, maintained, and reliable 24/7. Importantly, this funding also helps **offset the cost of operations for member agencies**, reducing their contributions to shared system services. This not only helps keep regional public safety communications affordable—it also **frees up local budgets to address other critical needs in their communities**, from staffing and training to essential equipment and public safety initiatives.

SNO911 Operations Support from ECSF:

Year	Amount
2020	\$1,200,000
2021	\$1,200,000
2022	\$2,000,000
2023	\$3,500,000
2024	\$5,100,000
2025 (Budget)	\$5,865,000
2026 (Budget)	\$6,011,625
Total (2020-2026)	\$24,876,625

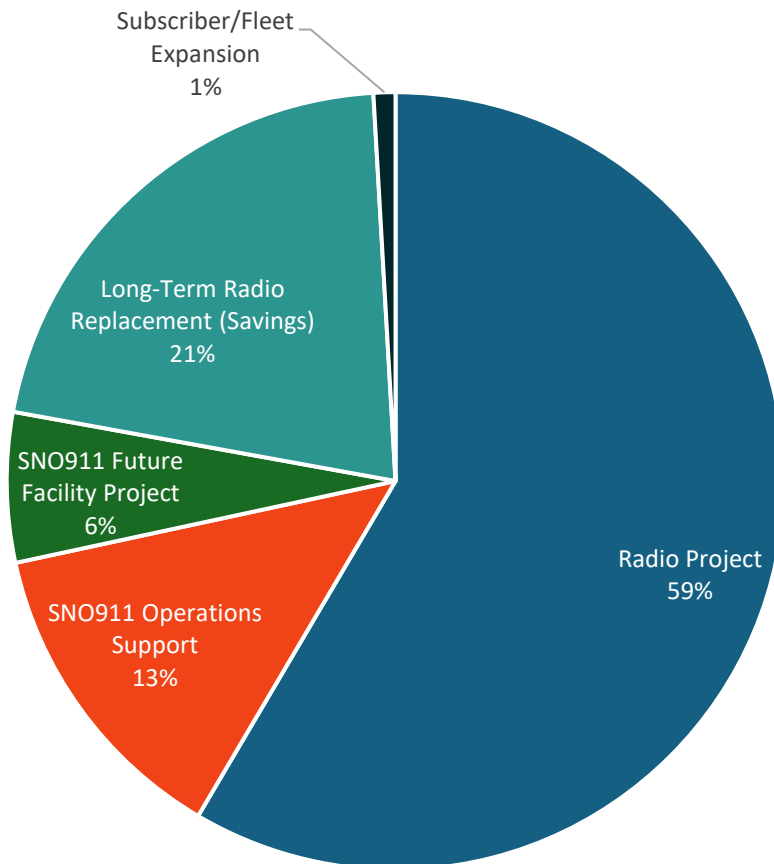
How Much Tax Has Been Collected?

The table below reflects the actual sales tax collected years 2019-2024, with estimated collections for 2025/2026.



Where the Tax Dollars Go

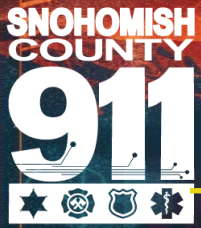
Estimated Allocation of ECSF Tax Revenue (2018-2024)



Contact

For public records or more information about the ECSF tax, visit

<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/5349/Emergency-Communication-Systems-Advisory>



ECSF Detailed Report

	Actual 2018	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Budget 2025 (Budget)	Budget 2026 (Budget)
Revenue and Other Sources:									
ECSF 1/10th of 1% Sales Tax	\$0	\$13,605,176	\$17,660,221	\$21,043,114	\$22,630,000	\$22,950,300	\$23,063,491	\$22,160,250	\$22,271,051
Interest	\$0	\$539,229	\$185,167	\$24,795	\$625,050	\$2,426,317	\$2,715,033	\$10,000	\$10,000
Short-Term Bond Anticipation Note	\$0	\$35,100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2019 Radio Project Bond Proceeds	\$0	\$35,776,765	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2022 SNO911 Future Facility Bond Proceeds					\$49,000,000				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$85,021,169	\$17,845,388	\$21,067,909	\$72,255,050	\$25,376,617	\$25,778,524	\$22,170,250	\$22,281,051
Expenditures:									
Radio Project									
RRP - Project Management	0	\$222,484	\$549,715	\$720,378	\$1,037,556	\$850,987	\$623,628	\$2,000,000	\$630,489
RRP - Infrastructure	\$3,368,646	\$13,708,443	\$68	\$426,048	\$1,988,678	\$2,646,858	\$2,807,612	\$11,101,249	\$442,439
RRP - Subscribers	\$0	\$0	\$16,879,145	\$114,761	\$2,272,952	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
RRP - Contingency	\$0	\$85,757	\$4,613,160	\$1,803,255	\$1,516,731	\$599,011	\$992,965	\$4,519,172	\$4,000,000
RRP - 15 Year Bond Repayment	\$0	\$323,942	\$2,797,578	\$2,796,050	\$2,794,800	\$2,794,800	\$2,794,800	\$2,794,800	\$2,794,800
RRP - Bond Anticipation Note	\$0	\$35,596,208	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Radio Project Sub-Total	\$3,368,646	\$49,936,834	\$24,839,666	\$5,860,492	\$9,610,717	\$6,891,655	\$7,219,005	\$20,415,221	\$7,867,728
SNO911 Support									
Future Facility Project	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,250,000	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Future Facility Debt Repayment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,912,987	\$3,000,000	\$3,479,232
Operations Support	\$0	\$0	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$2,000,000	\$3,500,000	\$5,100,000	\$5,865,000	\$6,011,625
Radio Capital	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$552,687	\$1,057,321
Radio Maintenance & Upgrades	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,320,390	\$1,365,127
SNO911 Support Sub-Total	\$0	\$0	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$3,250,000	\$6,500,000	\$7,012,987	\$10,738,077	\$11,913,305
Reserve Contributions									
Long-Term Radio System Replacement (Held in Snohomish County Fund 170 fund balance)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$21,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000
ECC Infrastructure (SNO911 Fund 125)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$900,000	\$5,400,000
Radio Subscriber Fleet Expansion & Repair (SNO911 Fund 140)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$600,000	\$0	\$300,000	\$150,000
Reserve Contributions Sub-Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$600,000	\$21,000,000	\$7,200,000	\$11,550,000

Note: SNO911 reports financials on a cash basis, while Snohomish County reports using Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). As a result, figures in this composite report may differ due to the timing of revenue and expenditure recognition, such as accruals versus actual cash transactions.

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