

## Fiscal Highlights

### **Government Communications Task Force** - Gary K. Ricks

Question: What is the Government Communications Task Force? Answer: It is a statutorily created (see [H.B. 388, Government Communications Task Force](#), 2013 General Session) temporary group of 17 members assigned to review and make recommendations on:

- statewide public safety,
- transportation,
- public works, and
- other governmental radio communications systems.

The group is comprised of:

- five members of the Legislature,
- five police chiefs throughout the state,
- five state government agency leaders, and
- two local fire chiefs.

This group has held two meetings to date and is studying:

- current capacity and technologies,
- projected needs and upgrades,
- opportunities to increase operational efficiencies,
- and sustainable funding alternatives.

The task force has received information from legislative staff regarding historical implementation of 911 related statutes and telephone service fees. Telephone service fees include the local 911 fee of \$0.61 per access line, which generated \$21.2 million in FY 2013; the state fee of \$0.08 per access line, which generated \$2.8 million in FY 2013; the Utah Poison Control Center surcharge of \$0.07 per access line, which generated \$2.5 million in FY 2013; and the Telecommunications Relay Service Fund fee of \$0.06 per access line which generated almost \$2.0 million in FY 2012.

The group is beginning deliberations on funding issues and alternatives for the future. the task force created a subcommittee to address these issues during its meeting held on July 11, 2013. The next task force meeting is planned for August 22, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.