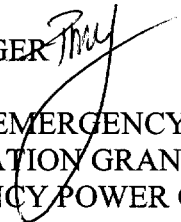


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 16, 2012

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF EMERGENCY POWER CONNECTIONS IN CRITICAL CITY FACILITIES

ISSUE: City Council consideration of applications for grant funds in the amount of \$1,110,000 available to the City, from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These funds will provide 75% of the funding necessary to install emergency power connections at critical City facilities.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Approve an application to VDEM for a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant in the amount of \$1,110,000 to install emergency power connections at critical City facilities; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all the necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: FEMA provides Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) opportunities to eligible states after Presidentially-declared disasters occur. VDEM received a FEMA HMGP grant due to impacts resulting from Tropical Storm Lee to the State of Virginia on September 8 and 9, 2011. Alexandria was a declared community, and with a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan, is eligible to apply to receive grant funds from this opportunity.

DISCUSSION: Alexandria was notified in March 2012 of eligibility to apply for HMGP grant funds. The HMGP grant would fund up to 75% of eligible project costs. A 25% non-federal cost-share match is required. In-kind services or individual contributions are considered eligible for cost-share match. The State of Virginia may consider providing some funds or resources to accommodate the cost-share match.

City Staff attended required applicant briefings and submitted necessary pre-application documentation to VDEM for HMGP grant consideration. Grant applications are due to VDEM

on July 31, 2012. If approved, VDEM will submit the City's application to FEMA on November 1, 2012. FEMA will then approve or deny our application.

Successful receipt of grant funds would provide the City \$1,110,000 in funding for the installation of mobile generator quick interconnections at eight critical City facilities. The installation of mobile generator quick interconnections would provide the City additional capability in the event of emergency response. In four facilities, emergency power systems currently do not exist. Charles Houston, Cora Kelly, Ramsey, and the Community/Detox Shelter are designated as emergency sheltering locations, but are not equipped with emergency power systems. Currently, if an extended power outage situation were to occur City-wide, plans would require the City to send community members to available shelters in Arlington or Fairfax Counties. Installing mobile generator quick interconnections would allow mobile generators to be quickly and easily installed to support necessary emergency power requirements.

In another four facilities, the Lee Center (location of the City's Emergency Operations Center), the Adult Detention Center/Public Safety Center, T&ES Operations building (2900 Business Center Drive), and Fleet Services emergency generation capacity currently exists. However, due to the criticality of these facilities during emergency response efforts, redundancy in emergency power systems would provide additional power reliability. Even when current emergency generators are properly maintained and well-performing, the prospect of generator failure is always a reality. Moreover, if an emergency generator were required to be taken out of service for maintenance purposes, great effort is required to install backup systems. Currently, it is extremely difficult, time consuming, and risky to install a mobile generator if required. To maintain resiliency and protect City staff associated with these critical operations, it is best-practice to provide capability to quickly and easily connect a mobile generator in effort to maintain continuity of operations.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is a 25% match requirement for these grant funds which will total \$277,500. The matching funds would be provided from the Emergency Generator Capital Improvement Program, which has a total of \$648,000 in the FY 2013 Capital Improvement Program. City staff will administer the grant.

ATTACHMENT: None

STAFF:

Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief
Jeremy McPike, Director General Services
Bill Eger, Energy Manager, General Services
Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator