

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 20, 2005
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 87 : GRANT FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY GENERATORS

This memorandum is a response to Mayor Euille's request for information regarding the use of Homeland Security grants to purchase fixed emergency generators for City buildings.

Generally, Homeland Security grants include generators for "critical facilities" as eligible expenses. The definition of "critical facilities" is very narrow. The National Strategy for the Physical Protection of Critical Infrastructures and Key Assets is a document developed by Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that lists the following categories of critical infrastructures: Agriculture and Food, Water, Public Health, Emergency Services, Defense Industrial Base, Telecommunications, Energy, Transportation, Banking and Finance, Chemical Industrial and Hazardous Materials, Post and Shipping, National Monuments and Icons, Nuclear Power Plants, Dams, Federal Government Facilities, and Commercial Key Assets.

In the categories noted above, schools and recreation centers are not recognized as critical facilities. Other local government buildings, such as fire stations, police stations, public safety facilities, corrections buildings, and emergency operations centers, are not on this list. The purchase of generators, however might be approved for a specific critical operation or program. An example would be the purchase of the generator at Lee Center, which currently houses the City's Emergency Operating Center (EOC). This generator was purchased in FY 2004 with Federal Byrne Grant monies, which was a one-time special allocation, following the events of September 11, 2001, that allowed more spending flexibility.

During FY 2005, Homeland Security State-pass-through grant monies were used to purchase portable generators that can be used to restore service to traffic lighting for most traveled intersections. Portable generators are generally an allowable expense.

The City's Office of Emergency Management will continue to apply for private and foundation grants outside the Homeland Security area that may be used for upgrading buildings. The Office has explored using some of these grants to provide emergency power for the City's fire stations, but to date, no grants have been awarded.

In summary, fixed generators are eligible, but their eligibility is tied to a "critical facility" or possibly a critical operation. It is also important to note that the City's share of Homeland Security funding has been reduced significantly and most likely, for future allocations, the City will be required to compete for additional funds as part of a regional project.

In the context of the Proposed FY 2006 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), a total of \$1.7 million over six years has been budgeted for the systematic replacement of generators at City facilities. In FY 2006, five generators are scheduled to be replaced at City facilities, including General Services Fleet Services Division, the Courthouse, the Public Safety Center, the Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) Maintenance Facility, and the Duke-Wheeler Avenue Fueling site.