

Community Center Generator

Category: Public Safety

Department Lead: Public Works

Type: New Project

Project Description, Benefit, Estimate, and Schedule

Disaster relief (DR) shelters play a vital role in large-scale disasters and are an important part of disaster response and recovery. DR shelters are used to provide private and secure places for people to live who have left or lost their usual accommodations as a result of some form of disaster. The City of Falls Church has designated its community center as the shelter for City residents during a large or small scale disaster. The most important aspect of any shelter is the ability to provide power by having a large enough generator to sustain a long period of time. Right now the community center has a diesel generator as its back-up power source. This generator, although functional, needs to be maintained during an emergency by Public Works by refilling diesel fuel which puts a strain on resources which in the City will be limited during any significant event. It also relies on diesel fuel, which depending on the emergency, could put the City in a position where fuel sources are limited (Coastal Pipeline Hacking incident). The Office of Emergency Management, through a Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) Grant, has the opportunity to replace our existing diesel generator with a more environmentally friendly, self sustained natural gas generator. The grant will pay for 61% of the new generator costs which leaves the City with a minimal 39% cost. With the rapid expansion of the City in the next five years, along with more and more disasters being so unpredictable, the City must take advantage of this one time opportunity in order to prepare itself to house and protect its residents during or after any incident it may encounter.



Capital Funding Plan

Project	Funding Source	PY Funds	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2030-33	10-YR Total
Community Center Generator	State Grant (VDEM)	\$ -	\$ 210,450	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 210,450
Replacement	Local (PAYGO)	\$ -	\$ 134,550	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 134,550
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total:		\$ -	\$ 345,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 345,000

Funding Notes: Office of Emergency Management will secure a grant to pay 61% of the new natural gas generator, with the city paying the remaining 39%.

**if no activity per City Charter (Section 6.19) in 3 years note as re-appropriation action*

Impact on Operating Costs

While the cost of diesel fuel and natural gas continue to be unpredictable, the natural gas generator will provide a more reliable and environmentally friendly source of energy for the community center when needed. Staff will no longer need to replenish the diesel fuel to keep the current generator operational. Because this generator is rarely used, only tested monthly, there will not be a significant cost saving for this project. although, if we do have to use the new generator for an extended period of time, the cost of natural gas is considerable less expensive then the cost of diesel fuel. Cost aside, this generator is offering the City a cleaner alternative energy source that's more reliable.

Conformity with Comprehensive Plan and Council Strategic Plan/ Equity Lens Score

Investment in City facilities meets the goals of Comprehensive Plan Chapter 8 "Community Facilities, Public Utilities and Government Services." Relevant goals include: "Public services are an integral component of a healthy community structure. They support existing and future development and contribute to the health safety, education and welfare of citizens and businesses in the community." ADD Comp Plan; Chapter 5, Climate, Air, and Energy. page 13 –