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MOTION:

**May 10, 2022
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 22-**

SECOND:

RE: RATIFY THE 2022 VIRGINIA SHELTER UPGRADE FUND GRANT APPLICATION AND ACCEPT, BUDGET, AND APPROPRIATE UP TO \$179,586 TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY GENERATORS AND ELECTRICAL MODIFICATIONS AT PRE-DESIGNATED EMERGENCY SHELTERS AND MASS CARE FACILITIES

ACTION:

WHEREAS, Prince William County (PWC) continues to face dangers from all types of disasters, both natural and man-made; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia General Assembly established the Commonwealth's Shelter Upgrade Fund under Section 44-146.29:3 Va. Code Ann (2021) to enable local governments to secure generators and retrofit shelters for citizens across the Commonwealth. The purpose of the Shelter Upgrade Fund is to provide matching funds to localities to install, maintain, or repair infrastructure related to backup energy generation for emergency shelters; and

WHEREAS, the PWC Office of Emergency Management (EM) has received a grant award for \$179,586 to procure towable diesel generators and a fixed natural gas generator for pre-identified emergency shelters or mass care facilities; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Virginia Shelter Upgrade Fund Grant requires a local cost share match based on the County's fiscal stress index of 34%, or \$92,514. The match will be funded by the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 or FY 2023 operating budget of the Office of Emergency Management and through a generator project funded by the American Rescue Plan Action (ARPA) Emergency Response grant account; and

WHEREAS, PWC EM was notified of grant award approval on April 6, 2022, and, therefore, acceptance of the funds is needed; and

WHEREAS, the grant period is from April 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the grant budget will be established on a reimbursement basis; and

WHEREAS, Katie Kitzmiller, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, will be the grant project coordinator; and Susan Sablinski, Fire and Rescue Administrative Services Division Chief, will be the grant fiscal agent;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby ratifies the 2022 Virginia Shelter Upgrade Fund Grant application and accepts, budgets, and appropriates up to \$179,586 to provide emergency generators and electrical modifications at pre-designated emergency shelters and mass care facilities;

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Acting County Executive, or designee, will serve as the signatory on all necessary documents to carry out the requirements of the grant pursuant to review and approval by the County Attorney's Office.

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent from Vote:

Absent from Meeting:

For Information:

Fire and Rescue System Chief

ATTEST: _____

Clerk to the Board



STAFF REPORT

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| Board Meeting Date: | May 10, 2022 |
| Agenda Title: | Ratify the 2022 Virginia Shelter Upgrade Fund Grant Application and Accept, Budget, and Appropriate up to \$179,586 to Provide Emergency Generators and Electrical Modifications at Pre-Designated Emergency Shelters and Mass Care Facilities |
| Requested Action: | Approve the resolution and authorize the acceptance of grant funding. |
| Department / Agency Lead: | Fire and Rescue System, Office of Emergency Management |
| Staff Lead: | Brian Misner, Emergency Management Coordinator |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Virginia General Assembly established the Commonwealth’s Shelter Upgrade Fund under Section 44-146.29:3 Va. Code Ann (2021) to enable local governments to secure generators and retrofit shelters for citizens across the Commonwealth. The Prince William County Office of Emergency Management (PWC EM) and Department of Social Services (DSS) are responsible for planning and coordinating the provision of mass care services, including shelters, during an emergency event. Funds from the project will be used to procure portable / towable diesel generators and electrical modifications for pre-identified emergency shelters or mass care facilities.

It is the recommendation of staff that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors (Board) ratify the 2022 Virginia Shelter Upgrade Fund Grant application and accept, budget, and appropriate up to \$179,586 to provide emergency generators and electrical modifications at pre-designated emergency shelters and mass care facilities.

BACKGROUND

2022 Shelter Upgrade Fund Grant Program – The Virginia General Assembly established the Commonwealth’s Shelter Upgrade fund under Section 44-146.29:3 Va. Code Ann (2021) to enable local governments to secure generators and retrofit shelters for citizens across the Commonwealth. The purpose of the Shelter Upgrade Fund is to provide matching funds to localities to install, maintain, or repair infrastructure related to backup energy generation for emergency shelters.

Emergency and Disaster Services Law; Powers and Duties of Political Subdivisions – In accordance with Section 44-146.19 Va. Code Ann (2021), the County is required to prepare and keep current a local or interjurisdictional emergency operations plan and provide an annually updated emergency management assessment and data related to emergency sheltering capabilities, including emergency shelter locations and their backup power capabilities. In addition, the Section 44-146.24 directs local directors and governing bodies of the political subdivisions of the Commonwealth to utilize the services, equipment, supplies, and facilities of existing departments, offices, and agencies of the Commonwealth and the political subdivisions thereof to the maximum extent practicable consistent with state and local emergency operation plans.

Mass Care Framework and Coordination – The *2020 PWC Emergency Operations Plan* (EOP) identifies DSS as the lead agency for coordinating PWC’s Mass Care Framework. This framework outlines the County’s capability to provide immediate shelter, feeding, bulk distribution of needed items, family reunification, and related services to persons affected by an emergency or disaster. Several Prince William County Schools (PWCS) have been identified in the *PWC Shelter Operations Annex* as primary shelters during an emergency. Specific locations are identified at the time of sheltering based on several criteria including incident type, type of population impacted, and location.

Funding Use – This funding will be used to procure two (2) towable diesel generators for pre-identified emergency shelters or mass care facilities.

- PWC EM coordinated with PWCS to have manual emergency transfer switches installed during the recent construction of the auxiliary gymnasiums at Garfield and Woodbridge Senior High Schools. These manual transfer switches allow a portable generator to safely power the entire auxiliary gymnasium.
- Two (2) 175-kilowatt trailer-mounted diesel generators and related cabling, capable of providing full power and heating / cooling for these gymnasiums, will be purchased by the County, and stored off-site by PWC EM.

The portable nature of the generators will enable them to be moved to other mass care sites in the event that commercial power remains available at Garfield and Woodbridge High Schools during a widespread emergency event.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of staff that the Board ratify the 2022 Virginia Shelter Upgrade Fund Grant application and accept, budget, and appropriate up to \$179,586 to provide emergency generators and electrical modifications at pre-designated emergency shelters and mass care facilities.

Service Level / Policy Impact

The 2021-2024 Strategic Plan Goal 2 is *Safe and Secure Community*. Within this goal, objective SS-4, *continued and enhanced preparation for and response to public health and other emergencies* details the need for adequate coordination between PWC EM and whole-community partners.

Enhancing emergency power capabilities at existing facilities will increase the amount of safe shelter space available during emergency events where there are long-duration interruptions of commercial utility power, which is important for members of the community with electrically dependent medical needs or seasonal periods of extreme heat or cold temperatures. Implementation of this grant award complements action strategy SS4-A: Develop and test comprehensive action plans to ensure adequate coordination between human service agencies, emergency management agencies, and other agencies that provide assistance.

The lack of adequate public facility space with emergency power that supports indoor heating and cooling, plus power outlets for electrically dependent medical needs, has been identified as an unmet need in the County's emergency planning efforts, and as an after action item from the January 2022 severe winter weather event.

Fiscal Impact

The 2022 Shelter Upgrade Fund requires a local cost share match based on the County's fiscal stress index of 34%, or \$92,514. This match requirement will be met or exceeded with the following funding sources:

- Two (2) DSS facilities that supports emergency sheltering functions for vulnerable populations, the Hilda Barg homeless Prevention Center, and the Potomac Mills Road Supportive Shelter, will receive a fixed emergency generator, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Emergency Response grant account for \$59,463.48.
- PWC EM will partially match the cost of one 175 kW generator and cable set with \$42,447.50 from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 or FY 2023 PWC EM operating budget.

The generators purchased with grant funds have an estimated service life of 25 years; preventative maintenance will be performed by PWC Fleet Management, with funding in the PWC EM base budget. Upon reaching the end of their useful service life, the generators will not be replaced.

The period of performance for this grant is April 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Upon approval, the grant budget will be established within Fire and Rescue System, Grants to general Fund Agencies Fund (1104). The revenue will be received on a reimbursement basis until end of the grant period of June 30, 2023, or expiration of grant funds.

Legal Impact

Board approval is required for the acceptance, budgeting, and appropriation of grant funds.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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