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Info Item No. 2
Executive Standing Committee
January 25, 2021

TO: Chair and Members of Executive Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY: **Original Signed**

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director, Corporate & Customer Services

Original Signed

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: December 1, 2020

SUBJECT: Emergency Generators at Strategic HRM Locations

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

January 29, 2019 Motion of Regional Council, Councillor Craig:

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

1. Request staff to prepare a report on capital funding needs to install emergency generators at strategic locations and an implementation plan for HRM prioritized buildings as part of a community safety and emergency management plan.
2. Direct HRFE Emergency Manager to develop a strategy and priority list for emergency generators.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Emergency Management Act, SNS 1990, c. 8 (as amended)

2(d) “emergency management plan” means any plan, program or procedure prepared by the Province or a municipality, as the case may be, that is intended to mitigate the effects of an emergency or disaster and to provide for the safety, health or welfare of the civil population and the protection of property in the event of such an occurrence;

...

10(1) Within one year after the coming into force of this Act, each municipality shall ... (e) prepare and approve emergency management plans.

Emergency Management By-Law (E-100)

4(3) The Executive Standing Committee shall:

- (a) advise Council on the development of municipal emergency management plans;
- (b) present municipal emergency management plans to Council;

...

6(4) The Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee shall:

- (a) assist the Municipal Emergency Management Co-ordinator in the preparation and co-ordination of municipal emergency management plans;
- (b) advise the Executive Standing Committee on the development of municipal emergency management plans;
- (c) upon request, assist the Executive Standing Committee in the presentation of municipal emergency management plans to Council;

...

6(5) Each member of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee shall prepare an emergency plan for the emergency functions assigned to their department, agency or area of responsibility. Members will submit plans to the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee for approval. Plans include training and exercise programs.

...

8(1) The Council shall review and evaluate municipal emergency management plans presented to it by the Executive Standing Committee.

...

BACKGROUND

HRM is mandated under the Emergency Management Act to prepare and approve emergency management plans. Part of the preparedness strategy is to have emergency comfort centres available to citizens when needed. These should be strategically located throughout HRM to ensure adequate coverage and availability to all citizens. The comfort centre locations would ideally be situated within a 20-minute drive. Within the core of HRM, there is access to multiple potential HRM buildings that could be made available in an emergency, but these resources are lacking outside of the downtown areas. These centres should have backup power to provide emergency cooling and warming locations for citizens, have accessible washroom facilities and be available for charging phones, to check in with families, and be able to provide emergency food distribution/preparation if required. Typical HRM-owned comfort centres include recreation facilities, libraries and fire stations.

DISCUSSION

To ensure adequate coverage across the municipality, the following regions and HRM facilities have been identified as priority candidates for emergency generator installations. Four locations have already been completed with installations occurring in 2020.

Region	Proposed Comfort Centre Location	Proposed Year of Installation
Sackville	Acadia School	Installed 2020
Eastern Shore	Samuel R. Balcom Community Centre	Installed 2020
Middle Musquodoboit	Bicentennial Theatre and Cultural Centre	Installed 2020
Musquodoboit Harbour	Musquodoboit Harbour Community Centre	Installed 2020
Lake Echo	Lake Echo Community Centre	2021/22

Dartmouth North	Dartmouth North Community Centre	2021/22
East Preston	East Preston Recreation Centre	2021/22
Peggy's Cove	Location to be determined (Route 327)	2021/22 - Find a community partner 2022/23 - Installation
Halifax	Halifax Central Library	2022/23
Tantallon/ Timberlea	BLT Community Centre	Timing to align with new build
North End Halifax	Halifax North Library	Timing to align with renovation

The proposed locations were prioritized based on needs in the Municipality where there are few buildings that can be used as comfort centres. These centres are required in times of extreme weather events and other crisis situations where citizens can go for assistance. In evaluating the gaps, the proposed locations were taken from GIS data in SATURN that track and monitor potential comfort centres and the communities/areas that they support. The locations were proposed so that individuals would not have to drive more than 20 minutes to reach a centre.

There is an Operating Cost of Capital (OCC) associated with these installations for ongoing maintenance requirements. In compliance with CSA C282-15 (Emergency Electrical Power Supply for Buildings), HRM is required to operate and maintain the generators and transfer switches in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Failure to perform the maintenance could result in the units not operating in the event of an emergency. The approximate yearly operating cost per location is \$7,200.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The following funding stream is being proposed as part of the 20/21 Capital Budget Process:

CB200002 - Emergency Management Projects

Fiscal Year	Funding
2021/22	\$450,000
2022/23	\$450,000
2023/24	\$450,000

A portion of each year's funding is coming from Gas Tax (Q626 Gas Tax Reserve).

A review of federal cost sharing opportunities was completed; however, emergency services infrastructure is ineligible.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement was not undertaken as part of this report.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

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