

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

99-252

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

JUNE 7, 1999

The City is proposing to submit an application to the Iowa Emergency Management Division (EMD) for grant funds that will provide an emergency back-up electrical generator for City Hall and designating a City representative to administer the project.

SUBJECT:

IOWA EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT
DIVISION (EMD)
GRANT
APPLICATION

FISCAL IMPACT -

The grant is for \$43,000. The EMD will provide 75 percent funding. A 25 percent local match not to exceed \$10,750 is required. The City Manager's Office will administer the grant.

TYPE:

RECOMMENDATION -

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

Approval.

BACKGROUND -

SUBMITTED BY:

ERIC A. ANDERSON
CITY MANAGER

On behalf of the City, the City Manager's Office is proposing to be the applicant for an EMD grant for hazard mitigation for a back-up generator at City Hall. The Iowa EMD notified communities that were impacted during severe winter storms from October 26, 1997 through October 28, 1997 (Presidential Disaster Declaration #1191) of the availability of funds. The purpose of the funding is to provide for permanent facility improvements specifically for the installation of permanent back-up electrical power generators to critical public facilities.

It was determined that a permanent back-up electrical power generator large enough to provide electricity to City Hall was the most feasible. Alternative facilities either have existing permanent back-up electrical power generators or did not meet the minimum requirements as set forth in the grant application

form. The existing emergency generator is insufficient to power critical systems such as emergency pumps.

During power outages communications are severely impaired making coordination of potential disaster efforts difficult. Essential computer equipment within City Hall would not be powered making electronic records and databases impossible to access. As City Hall upgrades systems of communication and information dissemination that are more dependent and sensitive to electricity, the need for continuous power becomes more critical. The cost of re-establishing databases that are not resident on the City server could be high should they be compromised. Traditional paper records are still susceptible to damage via power outages should the electrical storm pumps fail.

Communications and access to databases become critical both during and after a natural disaster. The inability to provide these essential services to our citizens because of power outages can now easily be avoided through the use of a back-up generator large enough to power the facility.

This resolution also designates Russell Underwood, Acting Assistant City Manager, as the City's representative to administer the project on behalf of the City.