

Item 5

2004 04 22

Mayor and Members of Council

Re: Additional Information – Budget Committee – April 16, 2004 and April 21, 2004  
Draft Recommendations – Item 2, Fire Equipment Reserve

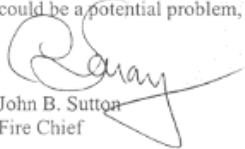
This information is in response to Item #2 that states, in part:

*That approval for Project 3170, Fire Station Generators, in the amount of \$60,000, be deferred and that staff provide an additional report addressing Members of Council's comments.*

Project 3170, Fire Station Generators, is a project designed to install natural gas electrical generators in all Vaughan Fire Stations. The impact on the 2004 capital budget would be one fire station at a cost of approximately \$60,000. It is proposed to add one fire station generator each year.

The blackout of August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2003, demonstrated deficiencies in relying on small portable generators for extended periods of time to support fire station needs; especially as the public attempted to seek shelter from the heat (or cold next time?) and wanted to store their refrigerated medications in the fire station refrigerators (that were not powered during the outage). Manual overrides of the normally power-operated doors do delay response somewhat. Telephone systems and some radios failed in the fire stations, due to inadequate back-up power systems. Multiple extension cords and flood lights, etc., also became hazards around the fire stations.

Currently, Station 7-7 on Eagleview Heights is the only fire station equipped with a full size generator. The diesel generator at Station 7-7 worked well during the blackout although it had to be refueled. Refueling diesel generators during prolonged blackouts could be a potential problem, which is why we are proposing natural gas generators.

  
John B. Sutton  
Fire Chief

**memorandum**