

RESOLUTION NO. 20230323-060

WHEREAS, the City has been subject to repeated weather related emergencies, including Winter Storm Uri in February of 2021 and Winter Storm Mara in February of 2023; and

WHEREAS, recent weather-related emergencies have resulted in a loss of electric power for hundreds of thousands of residents, creating a threat to personal well-being and public safety; and

WHEREAS, documented impacts of climate change indicate the City and its residents will be subject to a prolonged pattern of extreme weather events, which could threaten the regional supply of electric power; and

WHEREAS, the effectiveness and well-being of first responders, including units of the Austin Fire Department (AFD) and Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services (EMS), are adversely impacted by a loss of electrical power during extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, the Winter Storm Uri After Action Report, issued in October of 2021, identified the availability, reliability, and maintenance of back up electrical power at AFD and EMS stations as a public safety priority; and

WHEREAS, an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget included funds dedicated to the repair of generators at AFD facilities; and

WHEREAS, during Winter Storm Mara in February 2023, multiple AFD and EMS stations lost power; and

WHEREAS, several AFD and EMS stations that lost power during Winter Storm Mara did not have access to operational back-up generators, depriving on-duty first responders access to warmth and light; and

WHEREAS, due to age or pending maintenance, some AFD and EMS stations with access to emergency back-up power during Winter Storm Mara were forced to operate at a limited capacity, depriving some on-duty first responders access to warm water, kitchen facilities, battery charging, and other essential aspects of living on site; and

WHEREAS, full access to electric power is a critical feature in the operation of AFD and EMS stations, which are expected to deliver a full range of vital public safety and medical services to the community, 24 hours a day, seven days a week; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to perform an inventory of generators and detailed assessment of emergency backup power at all AFD and EMS Stations, and determine whether that power is available, reliable, and able to provide adequate power for all essential circuits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

At a minimum, the assessment shall detail whether essential circuits are able to supply HVAC (both heating and cooling), water heater, garage doors, interior and exterior lighting, essential power outlets, battery chargers, and computer/communication equipment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

By no later than July 1, 2023, the City Manager shall complete and deliver a report to Council on the findings of this assessment and provide a list of what is needed to ensure all essential circuits have adequate and reliable backup emergency power and the projected cost to accomplish this, itemized by station.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to utilize findings from the assessment in the ongoing effort to update the capabilities of AFD and EMS facilities, and report back to the Public Safety Committee every six months with regular updates.

ADOPTED: March 23, 2023

ATTEST:



Myrna Rios
City Clerk