

**Item Title:** Award Construction Contract in the Amount of \$730,900 for the Sanderson High School Emergency Shelter Generator

**Specific Action Requested:**  
**That the Board of Commissioners:**

- 1. Awards a construction contract in the amount of \$730,900 to Nationwide Electrical Services, Inc. of Goldsboro, NC for Modifications and Additions to the Emergency Power Generator Systems in the Sanderson High School Emergency Shelter; and**
- 2. Authorizes the County Manager to execute this contract subject to conditions acceptable to the County Attorney.**

**Item Summary:**

**Purpose:** State statute requires the Board of Commissioners to approve all public bid construction projects of more than \$500,000.

**Background:** Following Hurricane Fran in 1996, Wake County was awarded a Hazard Mitigation Grant to purchase generators to serve five different high school sites across the county that were designated as Emergency Shelter Sites. Since that time, one additional site has been established. Emergency power generators are required to provide backup power for the high school emergency shelters when activated. Wake County is responsible for maintaining and servicing the generators.

Sanderson High School, located at 5500 Dixon Dr, Raleigh, NC 27609 is designated as an emergency shelter site during extreme weather events. Staff recommend this Board action approving a contract to add a second emergency power generator to provide cooling and associated emergency electrical services.

**Strategic Plan:** This action supports routine County operations.

**Fiscal Impact:** Funding is appropriated in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the project costs. No additional appropriation is required. All spending on the project will comply with the standards and timelines required for American Rescue Plan Act funding.

**Additional Information:**

Sanderson High School is a 260,000 square foot, two story facility originally constructed in 1968. This school is utilized as an emergency shelter when activation is required.

Like the other five emergency shelter generators, when originally installed, the existing generator in this building only provides backup emergency power for the heating system.

However, the need for emergency cooling is now much more evident than it was 25 years ago, particularly with the increase in the number and intensity of warm-season weather events like hurricanes and flooding, and the related increase in shelter populations. Including the cooling system on emergency power will also improve indoor air quality which will mitigate pathogens such as Covid that could be prevalent in an emergency shelter environment. Therefore, based on the evaluation of each facility's emergency power generator systems, emergency backup power needs to be expanded to provide for the existing cooling systems in the facilities.

At this location, the existing generator previously failed and had to be replaced, in-kind in 2021. Due to funding limitations at the time, this generator could not be expanded to provide cooling. However, with the availability of ARPA funds, this supplementary project was added which involves installation of a second generator to provide cooling by operating one of the existing air-cooled chillers and its associated cooling systems. The work also includes modifications to the associated interior electrical distribution system, installation of new service platforms, and connection to the countywide supervisory network control of all generators. The project design and construction sequences have been coordinated so that occupied areas of each facility will see only a limited impact to operations from this project.

On September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, bid proposals for projects were received from 3 qualified licensed contractors in accordance with NC General Statutes. A tabulation of bids received is attached for review. The contract award amount consists of a base bid of \$643,500.00 and Alternate #3 with an additional cost of \$87,400.00. This recommended alternate bid is as follows:

Alternate No.3: Work in Basement A - Service Rework

This alternate work is necessary because the new generator will require reworking the electrical panels, which are located in the basement. Staff therefore recommends award of a construction contract to the lowest responsible, responsive bidder, Nationwide Electrical Services, Inc. of Goldsboro, NC in the amount of \$730,900. With the award of this contract, it is anticipated that a Notice to Proceed will be issued on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and that installation and full operation of the generators at Sanderson High School will be substantially complete by the end of December 2025.

For reference, below is the status of the other five Emergency Shelter Generator upgrade projects:

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Construction Status</b>
Southeast Raleigh High School EOC Emergency Generator	Completed
Knightsdale High School EOC Emergency Generator	Completed
Heritage High School EOC Emergency Generator	95% Completed
Middle Creek High School EOC Emergency Generator	95% Completed
Garner High School EOC Emergency Generator	40% Completed

**Attachments:**

1. Bid Tab
2. Project Cost Summary