



Report to Council

To: Mayor and Council Members
From: Jason Post, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Date: May 27, 2026
Subject: Purchase and Installation of Backup Generator at Wilson Park Community Centre

Recommendation:

That Council approve the purchase and installation of a new 28 kW Generac generator to service the Wilson Park Community Centre portion of the Fire Station 1/WPCC building complex, including an automatic start and transfer switch, at a total cost of \$34,240.00;

And further that the identified funding shortfall of \$8,842.63 be financed through reallocation of surplus funds from the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) capital project, which was completed under budget and funded through the 2026 OMPF (Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund).

Background:

During the 2026 Capital Budget deliberations, Council approved \$13,000.00 for the Wilson Park Community Centre (WPCC) portion of the Fire Station 1/WPCC building complex. These funds were intended to address repairs and upgrades to the existing WPCC generator to prevent exhaust from entering the WPCC portion of the building through the HVAC intake system.

In 2026, staff applied for and were successful in securing funding through the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant (CEPG). The application included a request for \$13,000.00 to support generator-related upgrades consistent with the original capital budget allocation.

Combined, the capital budget allocation and CEPG funding provide \$26,000.00 for improvements to the generator system at WPCC.



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Analysis:

During staff review of CEPG-funded project implementation, the generator configuration serving the Fire Station 1 / WPCC building complex was assessed. Fire Station 1 is currently equipped with a generator that includes an automatic start function. However, the generator serving the WPCC portion of the building does not have automatic start or automatic transfer capability. As a result, during power outages, staff must attend the site to manually start the WPCC generator and transfer power, which can delay service restoration and disrupt building operations.

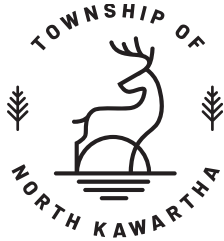
This limitation creates both operational and health and safety concerns. The existing generator exhaust issue is located within the WPCC portion of the facility, where exhaust may be drawn into the building through the HVAC intake system. In addition, water service for the entire building complex is shared and is dependent on power supplied through the WPCC generator. During a power outage, manual intervention is required to start the generator before water service can be restored to Fire Station 1.

This is of particular concern for firefighter health and safety, as decontamination requirements depend on a reliable water supply. Any delay in manually starting the WPCC generator may delay restoration of water service to Fire Station 1, which can affect firefighter decontamination and safe operations during emergency response situations.

To address these issues, staff obtained a quotation from Eels Electric in the amount of \$34,240.00 for the supply and installation of a new 28 kW Generac generator.

The proposed generator system would:

- be relocated to prevent exhaust from entering the Community Centre and adjacent buildings;
- include automatic start capability and a 400-amp automatic transfer switch;
- ensure continuous operation of the WPCC water disinfection system, thereby preventing interruption of water service to Fire Station 1 dorm rooms; and
- support critical operations within the Community Centre, while also providing power for most functions within both the library and Community Centre facilities.



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As part of the project scope, the generator would supply power to one of the two commercial rooftop HVAC units serving the Community Centre. Specifically, it would power the primary rooftop unit serving the banquet hall. The secondary rooftop unit serving the vestibules and kitchen areas is not included in the generator load. Staff have confirmed that these areas can continue to be adequately heated through the primary system. Including the secondary unit would require an upgrade to a 50 kW generator, increasing replacement costs by approximately 50 percent, before taxes.

Total available funding of \$26,000.00 through the capital budget and CEPG grant is insufficient to complete the project, resulting in a funding shortfall of \$8,842.63.

Staff have identified a funding source within the SCBA capital project, which was completed \$99,022.25 under budget. Staff therefore recommend reallocating a portion of this surplus to fully fund the WPCC generator project.

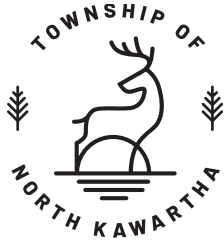
The proposed upgrade would significantly improve the reliability, safety, and emergency readiness of the WPCC facility by reducing reliance on staff intervention during power outages and supporting continuity of operations.

Staff have also identified ongoing radio communication coverage issues in the southern portion of the Township that are affecting Fire Department operations. Recent feedback indicates that these issues have become more pronounced on the Apsley fire repeater, raising concerns regarding the reliability of emergency communications. To address this matter, staff are reviewing potential radio communication system upgrades, including technical requirements, anticipated coverage improvements, and associated costs, while leveraging work currently being completed through the CEPG grant. Staff are working with technical specialists to assess available options and determine the most effective solution.

Staff intend to report back to Council in July 2026 with technical specifications, cost estimates, and recommendations for implementation, including the proposed reallocation of funding from the Fire Department SCBA replacement project savings to support the selected radio communications upgrade.

Financial Implications:

The total cost of the proposed generator replacement and installation is \$34,240.00. Funding sources are as follows:



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- 2025 Capital Budget Allocation (WPCC): \$13,000.00
- CEPG Grant Funding: \$13,000.00
- Total Available Funding: \$26,000.00

Funding Shortfall: \$8,842.63

It is recommended that the shortfall be funded through the reallocation of surplus funds from the SCBA capital project, which realized savings of \$99,022.25.

This approach allows the Municipality to complete a critical infrastructure upgrade without requiring new taxation, while maximizing the use of available grant funding and internal project savings.

Strategic and/or Other Plans:

Infrastructure:

Investments in Municipal Infrastructure:

2. Plan infrastructure development within demographic needs.

Governance:

Maintain a strong, accountable municipal government:

1. Maintain policies and processes that enable effective governance.
2. Provide quality community programs and services.
3. Provide effective, clear and transparent Township communication.

Environment:

Protect and enhance the Environment:

2. Protect the human environment.

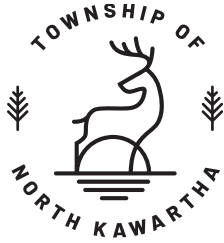
In Consultation With:

Alana Solman, Chief Administrative Officer

Corey Dunsby, Public Works Manager

Gary Gerald, Director of Parks and Recreation/Waste

Edward Hilton, Economic Development Officer



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Jesse Lambe, Fire Chief

Mackenzie Sykes, Finance Assistant/IT Coordinator

Tim Lee, Owner, Eels Electric Inc.

Attachment:

Eels Electric Inc., Quote