



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Rich Olson, City Manager
Angela Cole, Assistant City Manager

Date: December 8, 2016

Re: Consideration – Authorization to Submit 2016 System Betterment Project Reimbursement Grant Application to ElectriCities

BACKGROUND:

The ElectriCities membership organization provides management services to the state's two municipal power agencies - North Carolina Municipal Power Agency Number 1 and North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency, the latter of which the City of Elizabeth City is a member. Via their Programs and Services Department, they have offered a System Betterment Project Reimbursement Grant to defray project costs associated with power distribution, system and technology upgrades, energy efficiency, power audits, and other service delivery-related projects. The maximum grant award is \$5,000.

ANALYSIS:

As you are aware, the City has operated a Residential Energy Audit Program for several years. The energy audit's purpose is to evaluate each home and identify the energy efficiency methods that are most appropriate and cost effective for the home, making it warm in the winter, cool in the summer and safe all year long. The program has been successful, having weatherized over 400 residential structures since the City began the initiative. One of the feature elements of the weatherization program is the blower door test. A blower door is a machine used to measure the airtightness of buildings. The blower door can also be used to measure airflow between building zones, to test ductwork airtightness and to help physically locate air leakage sites in the building envelope. The City Load Management Division is looking to replace the existing blower door apparatus.

City staff would like to apply for \$5,000 in order to purchase a second blower door. City staff budgeted \$2,500.00 in the Energy Management FY2016-17 Budget to purchase a blower door for weatherization. However, an updated sales quote from The Energy Conservatory (TEC), supplier of the digital pressure gauge and blower door, lists purchase price and fees at \$4,810.00. The only obligation the City has from ElectriCities is that the funds be spent by December 31, 2016. The supplier has the items in stock for order and shipment.

FINANCIAL:

The Finance Committee discussed this matter during their meeting of December 8, 2016. Upon motion made by Mayor Peel, seconded by Councilman Donnelly, the committee unanimously recommended approval by the City Council.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, authorize the City Manager to submit an application for the 2016 System Betterment Project Reimbursement Grant from ElectriCities in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.