

Report to Council



Date: March 11th 2024
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: UBCM Regional Grant Funding Application – RDCO Emergency Support Services
Equipment and Training
Department: Kelowna Fire Department

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from Kelowna Fire Department dated March 11, 2024 with respect to UBCM Regional Grant Funding Application – RDCO Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training;

AND THAT Council approves the Regional District of Central Okanagan applying for, receiving, and managing the 2024 UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund grant, under the Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training stream on behalf of the City of Kelowna.

Purpose:

To support the Regional District of Central Okanagan to manage a UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Support Services grant on behalf of the Central Okanagan local jurisdictions.

Background:

The regional Central Okanagan Emergency Management Program provides a coordinated emergency response through the Emergency Operations Centre for events such as forest fires, floods, landslides, and extreme heat events.

To support this regional program, the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) has applied to UBCM for Community Emergency Preparedness funding to support Emergency Support Services. As part of applying for the grant, each partnering jurisdiction must submit a resolution that states their approval for the primary applicant, which in this case is the RDCO, to apply for, receive, and manage the grant funding on behalf of the region.

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations, and communities in responding to

emergencies. Funding is provided by the Province of BC and is administered by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

Discussion:

As a vital component of the regional emergency management program, RDCO Emergency Support Services (ESS) offers centralized support to our regional partnering communities during emergencies. In the aftermath of the 2023 Grouse Complex wildfires, there is a clear imperative to enhance knowledge, capacity, resources, and resilience within each regional community. Through this funding we aim to create a cohesive, effective, and efficient regional ESS response. Proposed expenses include the purchase of new equipment for ESS volunteers and the staging of equipment at key strategic locations within each municipality to support ESS facilities. Funding for an enhanced training program encompasses components that focus on volunteer skills, along with scenario-based training for the implementation of a new ESS plan. This plan integrates knowledge acquired from the experiences during the 2023 Grouse Complex wildfires.

Through pooling eligible funding from all local governments within the RDCO, including Westbank First Nation, ESS will receive the necessary support to provide services across the region.

100% of the project costs are anticipated to be covered by this grant, which will be managed regionally. The estimated combined value of this application is \$148,000.

Conclusion:

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund can support our regional Emergency Management Program - Emergency Support Services by providing funding to complete training and the purchase of professional equipment to build capacity and support our communities.

Internal Circulation:

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Consultation and Engagement:

Submitted by:

J. Bedell, Emergency Support Services Supervisor

Approved for inclusion:

S. Leatherdale, Divisional Director, Corporate & Protective Services

cc:

S. Follack, Deputy Fire Chief

C. Leslie, Financial Analyst

M. Kam, Grants & Special Projects Manager

D. Seymour, Fire Chief