

Report to Council



Date: May 6th, 2024
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: UBCM Regional Grant Funding Application – RDCO Emergency Operations Centre Equipment and Training
Department: Kelowna Fire Department

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from Kelowna Fire Department dated May 6th, 2024, with respect to UBCM Regional Grant Funding Application – Emergency Operations Centre 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 Operations Centre 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 Operations Centre Equipment and Training 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 Operations Centre. 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 the main component of the regional emergency management program, the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) provides centralized site support throughout our regional partnering communities during emergencies.

As our region faces increasingly frequent, severe, and prolonged emergencies, it's evident that we must bolster our knowledge, capabilities, resources, and resilience within our regional program. Through this grant application, we aim to foster greater collaboration and communication between incident sites and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) by acquiring innovative equipment and providing comprehensive training. This initiative specifically targets the enhancement of timely and accurate sharing of mapping data, thereby improving overall response and evacuation effectiveness.

The culmination of our training and equipment grant acquisitions will be a multi-day training exercise designed to rigorously test and validate the effectiveness of our new systems, equipment, and skills in a real-world setting.

Through pooling eligible funding from all local governments within the RDCO, including Westbank First Nation, the Emergency Operations Centre will receive the necessary support to further provide professional 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 \$172,000

Conclusion:

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund can support our regional Emergency Management Program - Emergency Operations Centre 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:

D. Seymour, Fire Chief

cc:

C. Leslie, Financial Analyst

M. Kam, Grants & Special Projects Manager