

Report to Council



Date: February 10, 2025
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: UBCM Regional Grant Funding Application - Emergency Support Services Equipment & Training grant
Department: Kelowna Fire Department

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, a report from the Kelowna Fire Department dated February 10, 2025, with respect to a grant opportunity within the 2025 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund;

AND THAT Council support a regional application by the Central Okanagan Emergency Management Program to the 2025 Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training grant;

AND FURTHER THAT the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) be authorized to apply for, receive and manage the grant funding on behalf of the City of Kelowna.

Purpose:

To support the Regional Emergency Management Program to apply for and manage a joint application to the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training grant on behalf of the City of Kelowna and other Central Okanagan local jurisdictions.

Background:

Emergency Support Services (ESS) is a provincial program delivered by the Regional Emergency Management Program to meet the basic needs of evacuees throughout the Central Okanagan. The volunteer-based program provides short-term accommodation, food and incidentals to evacuees directly following a disaster.

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 UBCM. The intent of the Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training stream is to build local ESS capacity by supporting efforts to recruit, retain and train ESS volunteers as well as purchase of equipment to support the modernization of ESS delivery.

In 2024, the Regional Emergency Program received a \$147,500 UBCM Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training grant as the primary applicant. Funds have supported a variety of training, including a live exercise at Royal LePage place, expanded equipment and supplies, public information materials and efforts supporting ESS volunteer recognition and retention.

Discussion:

To support the ongoing success and growth of ESS, the Emergency Management program will apply on behalf of each of the six member jurisdictions participating up to a maximum request of \$240,000 dollars. Each partnering jurisdiction must submit a resolution that states their approval for the primary applicant, to apply for, receive, and manage the grant funding on behalf of the region.

Upon a successful grant application, grant funds will be used to bolster group lodging and muster center equipment throughout the region, purchase equipment to support digital evacuee registration and expand training and resources for our volunteers ESS responders.

100% of the project costs are anticipated to be covered by this grant, which will be managed regionally.

Conclusion:

A successful application and management of the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund grant will significantly enhance the Emergency Support Services program's capacity to support evacuees in Kelowna throughout the Central Okanagan.

Internal Circulation:

Partnerships & Investments

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Consultation and Engagement:

Submitted by: L. Wilson, ESS Supervisor

Approved for inclusion: S. Leatherdale, General Manager, People & Protective Services

cc:

B. Seibert, Regional Emergency Program Manager

K. March, Grants and Special Projects Manager