



COUNCIL REPORT  
Corporate Initiatives  
For the November 12, 2019 Council Meeting

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DATE: November 1, 2019  
TO: Paul Gipps, CAO  
FROM: Jason Luciw, Communications and Grants Coordinator  
RE: Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Application

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**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

**THAT** Council support the City of West Kelowna's application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund's Volunteer and Composite Fire Department Training and Equipment Program; and,

**THAT** Council permit West Kelowna Fire Rescue to use approved grant funding to purchase software and hardware and to facilitate firefighter resiliency training; and,

**THAT** Council authorise staff to include \$24,964 in the 2020 operations budget for training and equipment purchases, subject to funding being provided through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund; and,

**THAT** Council authorise the Mayor and Corporate Officer to execute the funding agreement.

**RATIONALE:**

Forest fire seasons are becoming more intense and having greater impacts on communities due to climate change. Fire departments must ensure that crews have the skills and equipment required to recover effectively from natural disasters and have the means and expertise to better educate the public on wildfire prevention and assist the community in recovering from their effects.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of provincial funding programs aimed at enhancing the resiliency of local governments and First Nations in responding to emergencies.

The purpose of the CEPF's Volunteer and Composite Fire Department Training and Equipment Program is to build the resiliency of emergency responders through the purchase of new or replacement equipment and software and to facilitate training. Ongoing fire department operational costs and major fire apparatus purchases are ineligible under the program.

A highly trained and well-equipped fire department responds faster and recovers quicker following major emergencies, thereby creating a safer community. Ongoing training provides ground command and crews with standardized operating procedures to manage major emergencies and hazards effectively and safely.

Staff will use CEPF funds to purchase projectors, laptops, tablets, software and licences to facilitate advanced training and support major emergency response efforts, including wildfire suppression and incident command. Crews will also use equipment to conduct public engagement aimed at preventing wildfires and building community resiliency in the event of major incidents.

Staff will create an advanced, mobile lab of iPads, which West Kelowna Fire Rescue will use to train its crews and add value by making equipment available to nearby departments. Each West Kelowna fire hall will also have its own projector and laptop to allow concurrent training sessions to occur.

West Kelowna Fire Rescue will work with City of West Kelowna Information Services to purchase and set up the necessary software, licences and hardware.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Staff has acquired an estimate of \$24,964 to purchase the necessary computer software and related licensing and hardware, including laptops, projectors and tablets to facilitate the required emergency response, resiliency and recovery training. Staff requests that Council include \$24,964 in the 2020 operational budget subject to CEPF funding approval.

#### REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

Jason Brolund, Fire Chief  
Warren Everton, Director of Finance/CFO  
Sandy Webster, Director of Corporate Initiatives  
Tracey Batten, Deputy CAO/Corporate Officer  
Paul Gipps, CAO

PowerPoint: Yes ☐ No ☒

Attachments: None