



COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: February 27, 2024

From: Ron Mattiussi, Interim CAO

Subject: **Regional Grant Funding Application – RDCO Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training**

Report Prepared by: Jason Brolund, Fire Chief

RECOMMENDATION to Consider and Resolve:

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 West Kelowna.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Foster Safety and Well-Being – We will pursue through direct action, advocacy, and collaboration with local and regional service providers, investments in community health, needs-based housing, emergency preparedness, policing, and other services that foster safety and well-being in West Kelowna.

BACKGROUND

The Emergency Management Program is a regional service comprised of all Central Okanagan municipal and electoral area jurisdictions along with Westbank First Nation who work together to provide a coordinated emergency response for events such as forest fires, floods, landslides, and extreme heat events.

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 BC Municipalities (UBCM).

Regional staff have prepared an application to request funding under the Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training stream.

DISCUSSION

The Emergency Operations Centre is a regional program, and all local governments work collaboratively to identify where in the region support is required.

The intent for this ESS grant is to ensure all jurisdictions have support during events with trained ESS volunteers, staff, and equipment. ESS is a vital component of the RDCO Regional Emergency Program which offers centralized support to local governments during emergencies such as wildfires and floods.

In the aftermath of the 2023 Wildfires, there is an imperative to enhance knowledge, capacity, resources, and community resilience for the benefit of residents, businesses, and visitors within the RDCO. By combining eligible funding amounts of all the local governments within the RDCO, the ESS Team will be supported to deliver services throughout the RDCO Regional Emergency Program.

Staff from the Regional Emergency Program will attend the council meeting to discuss the Regional ESS Program and answer questions relating to the grant and its implementation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

100% of the project costs are anticipated to be covered by this grant, which will be managed regionally. The estimated combined value of the RDCO application to the UBCM-CRI is \$148,000.00. This estimated total is derived from RDCO Regional Emergency Program staff analysis of eligible grant amounts for the Westbank First Nation, District of Peachland, City of West Kelowna, Regional District of the Central Okanagan, City of Kelowna and District of Lake Country.

Combining and coordinating efforts will optimize the impact of staff time and consultant time.

REVIEWED BY

Warren Everton, Director of Finance/CFO

Corinne Boback, Legislative Services Manager / Corporate Officer

Trevor Seibel, Deputy CAO

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Name, CAO

Powerpoint: Yes ☐ No ☒