



COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: May 21, 2024

From: Ron Mattiussi, Interim CAO

Subject: **UBCM Regional Grant Funding Application – RDCO Emergency Operations Centre Equipment and Training**

Report Prepared by: Jason Brolund, Fire Chief

RECOMMENDATION to Consider and Resolve:

THAT Council approve, the Regional District of Central Okanagan applying for, receiving, and managing the 2024 Community Emergency Preparedness Fund grant (Emergency Operations Centre Equipment and Training) 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 Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) 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.

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

To support this regional program, the RDCO has applied to UBCM for Community Emergency Preparedness funding to support the regional Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).

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.

As the main component of the regional emergency management program, the 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 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.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

REVIEWED BY

Warren Everton, Chief Financial Officer

Corinne Boback, Legislative Services Manager/Corporate Officer

Trevor Seibel, Deputy CAO

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Warren Everton, Acting CAO

PowerPoint: Yes No