



COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: January 28, 2025

From: Ron Bowles, Chief Administrative Officer

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 2025 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 has been a concerted effort to enhance ESS capacity, resources, and resiliency 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.

In 2024 Council supported the combined application to the UBCM-CEPF for ESS Training and Equipment stream. The estimated combined value of the 2024 application was \$148,000.00 and the RDCO was awarded \$147,500.00. The 2024 funding supported a variety of ESS volunteer and ESS staff training. This included a live exercise at Royal Lepage Place in West Kelowna. The funding also helped to improve available technology, revise public information materials, support ESS volunteer recruitment and support ESS volunteer recognition.

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, Chief Financial Officer

Trevor Seibel, Deputy CAO/Deputy Corporate Officer

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Ron Bowles, Chief Administrative Officer

Powerpoint: Yes No