



COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: January 27, 2026

From: Ron Bowles, Chief Administrative Officer

Subject: **2026 Intake – UBCM – Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) Regional Grant Applications**

Prepared by: Jason Brolund, General Manager of Protective Services and Fire Chief

Reviewed by: Ron Bowles, Chief Administrative Officer

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council support a regional grant application by the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) to the February 2026 intake of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) for Emergency Operations Centres Equipment and Training stream;

AND THAT Council support a regional grant application by the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) to the April 2026 intake of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) for Public Notification & Evacuation Route Planning stream;

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

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Invest in Infrastructure – We will invest in building, improving and maintaining infrastructure to meet the needs of, and to provide a high quality of life for, current and future generations.

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 Central Okanagan Emergency Management program is a regional initiative, and all local governments work collaboratively to enable the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and conduct planning and response activities.

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) provides essential support to help local governments, First Nations, and communities build resilience and improve emergency planning and response capabilities.

This regional grant application seeks funding for two interconnected priorities:

1. Enhance Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) capacity through equipment upgrades, training and wellness initiatives that are led by the RDCO.
2. Enhance regional public notification and evacuation route planning to support safe, efficient and accessible evacuation during emergencies via initiatives that are led by the RDCO.

DISCUSSION

1. RDCO staff and/or contractors will make a joint application to the 2026 intake of the (UBCM-CEPF) under the Emergency Operations Centre Training and Supports stream for a combined amount of \$30,000 per regional partner (total of up to \$180,000).

This funding will help fund the 2026 training plan as well as new/additional technology required to support the activation of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). The RDCO Emergency Operations Centre is activated in support of site level operations during major emergencies and has recently temporarily relocated to a new location as the program transitions to RDCO administration.

2. RDCO staff and/or contractors will make a joint application to the 2026 intake of the (UBCM-CEPF) under Public Notification & Evacuation Route Planning stream for a combined amount of \$40,000 per partner (total of up to \$240,000).

This funding will support the third phase of the Planning Notification and Evacuation Route Planning framework for all local government and support organization stakeholders. The next phase focuses on refining the 250 evacuation zones and updating the plan to accommodate scenarios where multiple zones evacuate to one or more locations. This will include tabletop/targeted training, and collaboration that enhances evacuation route planning processes across the RDCO.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The full cost of both initiatives will be 100% funded from the grants and managed by the RDCO. A nominal in-kind contribution of CWK staff-time will be required to support both initiatives from existing resources.

By working together regionally, local governments participating in the Central Okanagan Emergency Management Program are eligible for up to \$420,000 in funding, which is much more than if they undertook this work individually.

PowerPoint: Yes No