
TO: Electoral Area Services Committee **MEETING:** February 11, 2020
FROM: Melissa Tomlinson
Emergency Planning Coordinator **FILE:** 0360 20 CEMG
SUBJECT: Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Grants 2020

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the grant application for \$25,000 to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for an emergency communications trailer be endorsed.
2. That the grant application for \$25,000 to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for Emergency Support Services modernization and group lodging be endorsed.

SUMMARY

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) is accepting grant applications through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) to improve Emergency Operations Centres (EOC) and Emergency Support Service (ESS) programs.

The EOC grant application funds will contribute to the purchase of an emergency communications trailer that will provide dedicated mobile space to effectively manage emergency communications to and from the RDN EOC in the event of an emergency where a direct link to radio communications is required.

The ESS grant application funds will purchase digital ESS kits to support the Provincial ESS Modernization project. In addition to the kits, the RDN will purchase group lodging supplies to be stored around the region. Having supplies easily accessible, will accelerate the activation of a group lodging facility should commercial accommodations not be viable.

BACKGROUND

In October 2017, UBCM introduced the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, intended to enhance resiliency of local governments in responding to emergencies. Funding is provided by the Province of British Columbia and is administered by UBCM. Funding streams are available for several categories including Emergency Operations Centres and Emergency Support Services. The 2020 Emergency Operations Centre grant application will enhance EOC capability by purchasing and equipping a mobile EOC communications trailer. As the EOC is a central support facility for the community in the event on an emergency, this project aims to improve communication capability to and from the EOC facility in the event of an emergency or disaster where a direct link to radio communications is required and/or in the event that the

physical EOC location is impacted. The communications trailer can be relocated anywhere and will contain five workstations to support radio communications for the entire Regional District. First responder radio frequencies, amateur radios and satellite communications will be connected allowing for direct communications between the RDN, first responders, amateur radio operators, municipal partners, EMBC and neighbouring jurisdictions. This project will fill gaps identified during after action debriefs and during training and exercises.

The 2020 Emergency Support Services grant application includes purchasing group lodging supplies to be stored around the region and digital ESS equipment to support Emergency Management British Columbia's (EMBC) ESS Modernization project. The digital kits will include tablets and accessories to enable ESS teams within the region to practice and prepare for implementation of ESS modernization, including digital delivery of services. The ESS Modernization project is expected to be implemented in 2021 and local governments have been encouraged by EMBC to include purchasing equipment with the CEPF grant funds within this funding period. Standards for ESS modernization equipment have been set by EMBC and the RDN will follow these provincial guidelines when purchasing kits.

The RDN is coordinating with the Town of Qualicum Beach and the City of Parksville to develop a Group Lodging plan for the Oceanside area. Group lodging is also being planned for Electoral Area B and in collaboration with the City of Nanaimo, Electoral Areas A & C. Group Lodging can provide accommodation for people affected by a disaster who are unable to stay in their homes and when other types of accommodation are not available.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the grant application for \$25,000 to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for an emergency communications trailer be endorsed.
2. That the grant application for \$25,000 to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for Emergency Support Services modernization and group lodging be endorsed.
3. That the Board provide alternate direction.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The EOC trailer has been a planned item and reserve funding has been budgeted to support the purchase. \$40,000 budgeted from reserves along with the \$25,000 grant requested will enable the purchase and setup of the trailer. Ongoing maintenance of \$500 annually will be budgeted in subsequent years.

The ESS modernization equipment will have monthly and annual fees for data usage. \$500 will be budgeted annually to support this equipment.

The RDN is working with current Reception Centres and Fire Halls to access storage for group lodging supplies. In areas where storage is at a premium, there may be rental costs for annual storage.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Social Wellbeing - Make the Region a safe and vibrant place for all, with a focus on children and families in programs and planning.



Melissa Tomlinson

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January 17, 2020

Reviewed by:

- C. Morrison, Manager, Emergency Services
- D. Pearce, General Manager, Transportation and Emergency Services
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer