



REGIONAL  
DISTRICT  
OF NANAIMO

## 2023 VOLUNTEER AND COMPOSITE FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT APPLICATION

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the 2023 regional grant application by the Qualicum Beach, Dashwood, Nanoose Bay, and Coombs-Hilliers Volunteer Fire Departments, for \$120,000 from the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund: Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments funding stream, be endorsed.
2. That the administration by the Regional District of Nanaimo for the application for, receipt and management of the 2023 Community Emergency Preparedness Fund: Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments on behalf of the Qualicum Beach, Dashwood, Nanoose Bay, and Coombs-Hilliers Volunteer Fire Departments, be approved.

### BACKGROUND

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a provincial grant administered by the Union of BC Municipalities to enhance the emergency response of local government. The CEPF has a grant stream for Volunteer and Composite Fire departments to fund equipment purchases and training efforts. Each fire department, no matter the governance structure, is eligible to apply for the \$30,000 grant, thus this application will not nullify grant participation of other fire departments within the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN).

For the 2023 grant intake, Qualicum Beach, Dashwood, Nanoose Bay, and Coombs-Hilliers Volunteer Fire Departments would like to apply for regional project funding to purchase wildfire response equipment and personal protective equipment for the shared use in response and training for wildland and interface fires. This joint application is necessary due to the involvement of 4 fire department that are not all under the same governance structure. Since the two (2) RDN fire departments are included in the application, it is necessary for the RDN to apply, receive and maintain the grant to enable the two RDN departments to be included along with the 2 external participating departments.

Wildfire response equipment requested in this grant application includes equipment necessary to extinguish and control a fire in the urban interface and forested areas. The equipment includes portable pumps, hoses, sprinklers, hose appliances and portable tanks. The grant will also fund the Personal Protective Equipment the firefighters require while fighting wildland and interface fires. This application will provide for two full sets of wildfire response equipment to be strategically placed within the region to provide for prompt and enhanced wildfire and interface fire response capacities serving the entire mutual aid region from Deep Bay to Lantzville. This will provide the opportunity for additional wildfire response equipment for firefighters to train with and capacity to contain a wildfire within the region. This equipment meets the standards set out by the British Columbia Wildfire Service and is compatible with their equipment during interagency wildfire responses within the region.

By submitting a joint application for this wildfire response equipment and PPE the four partnering fire departments will have access to a wide array of wildfire response equipment to protect their communities without each having to procure separate individual sets of equipment. For each department to procure this equipment individually and without grant funding would be cost prohibitive. Fire doesn't know or follow regional boundaries or service area boundaries and this joint application will support the regional response to any wildland or interface fire within the mutual aid agreement area to protect RDN residents and countless visitors each summer.

The CEPF Grant application requires the resolutions of each Local Authority or Society for the partnering fire departments. The resolution from the Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department's board is attached along with a memo from the Town of Qualicum Beach Fire Chief indicating that Town Council will be voting on the resolution at their next meeting. The deadline for the grant application is October 20, 2023, and UBCM has confirmed the application can be submitted without all the resolutions if there are misaligned board or council meeting dates as long as it is indicated that those resolutions will be forthcoming.

On July 31, 2023, an email regarding this grant application was sent to the fire departments in the region as a reminder and to offer support for applications as necessary or if requested. To date we understand that the Bow Horn Bay Volunteer Fire Department has applied for this funding stream independently, and the Errington Volunteer Fire Department is working on an application to do the same. In addition, the Cranberry Fire Department has also applied for the full grant amount.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The CEPF 2023 Volunteer and Composite Fire departments grant provides 100% of the costs to eligible activities to a maximum of \$30,000 per participating fire department, with no contribution required from the RDN outside of regular staff time for grant management. The funding stream allows for regional applications and stacked funding, meaning each of the four participating fire department applications are eligible for up to \$30,000 for a total grant request of \$120,000. If successful, this funding would be added to the 2023 Financial Plan.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

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

## **REVIEWED BY:**

- E. Beauchamp, Manager, Emergency Services
- L. Grant, General Manager, Development and Emergency Services
- D. Holmes, Chief Administrative Officer

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department - 2023 CEPF Board Resolution
2. Qualicum Beach Memo to Council - 2023 CEPF Grant