

Town of Qualicum Beach
M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Heather Svensen, Corporate Administrator **FOR:** Council Meeting October 11, 2023

FROM: Bernadette Ritter, Administrative Assistant, Communications & Grants

SUBJECT: UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Wildfire Response Equipment

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council authorize the submission of a regional grant application to Union of BC Municipalities' (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for a total of \$120,000 for Volunteer & Composite Fire Department Equipment and Training.

THAT Council authorize the application for, receipt and management of the Community Emergency Preparedness grant by the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN), on behalf of the Town of Qualicum Beach.

PURPOSE

To support the application for UBCM funding for Wildfire Response Equipment and personal protective equipment to be used in local or regional Wildfire incidents and for training in collaboration with the RDN and partner fire departments.

BACKGROUND

UBCM administers the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund provided by the Province of BC and offers a funding stream called Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments Equipment & Training. Under this Program, local authorities can apply for funding to build the resiliency of volunteer and composite fire departments by purchasing new or replacement equipment and facilitating the delivery of training. Wildfire Response Equipment is considered an eligible project under the Program and will increase the region's capacity to support emergency events.

The RDN is applying as the primary applicant for this regional grant, with the secondary applicant being the Town of Qualicum Beach. With the RDN being the primary applicant, they are eligible to apply for \$30,000 in funding for Nanoose, Coombs-Hilliers and Dashwood Fire Departments, which brings the grant funding total to \$120,000. This grant Program can contribute up to 100% of the cost of eligible activities.

The fire departments in the District 69 area of the RDN have robust mutual and automatic aid agreements, which support a joint grant application and equipment purchase. This regional project will allow a cost-effective way for each partnering fire department to have access to wild firefighting equipment that is near their fire protection area.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

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, which will be stored in caches that can be deployed effectively to the required fire protection area. The grant will also fund the Personal Protective Equipment the firefighters require while fighting wildland and interface fires.

Figure 1: Example of Proposed Wildfire Response Equipment



FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated cost for this project is \$120,000, which would be fully funded by the UBCM Grant funding that the RDN and Town would be applying for.

SUMMARY

The Town would like to support the RDN submission, receipt, and management to the UBCM for Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments Equipment & Training funding under the umbrella of the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund. This funding will help build resiliency of our region's volunteer and composite fire departments.

ALTERNATIVE

- Provide alternative direction to staff.