



Regional Board Report

Request for Decision

To: Regional Board
From: Director of Corporate Services/ Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Date: January 25, 2024
Subject: UBCM Grant Application – Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training

Voting Entitlement: All Directors - Unweighted Corporate Vote - Simple Majority (LGA s.208)

Purpose: To seek Board support for staff to apply for a grant application under the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund.

Executive Summary:

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 administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). Staff have prepared an application to request funding for Emergency Support Services Training in 2024 to build local capacity to provide emergency support services through ESS volunteer/responder recruitment, retention and training, and the purchase of ESS equipment .

Recommendation(s):

THAT the Regional Board supports a submission of an application under the 2024 UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for \$148,100 under the Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training stream.

Respectfully submitted by: Sandra Ballan-Brown, Executive Assistant, Corporate Services

Report Approved by:

Handwritten signature of Corie Griffiths in purple ink.

Corie Griffiths, Director of Corporate Services/
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Approved for Agenda:

Handwritten signature of Sally Ginter in black ink.

Sally Ginter, Chief Administrative Officer

Strategic Plan Alignment:

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|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency preparedness | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Truth and reconciliation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health and wellness | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and climate – Regional priority only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Growth and development – Electoral Area priority only |
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Background:

Following the 2023 McDougall Creek Wildfire, the ESS welcomed an influx of new volunteers. While this surge is positive, addressing the need to train and equip both new and existing volunteers is essential. Through reception center simulation exercises and diverse training opportunities, the program offers a comprehensive experience that not only enhances our capacity but also fosters a sense of value and preparedness among volunteers. By actively listening to volunteers and supplying new equipment tailored to their needs and recent experiences, they are empowered to sustain their valuable contributions to the provincial program with a heightened sense of professionalism.

Proposed Project Activities**Purchase of Equipment and Supplies**

- 15 x Level 1 ESS Responder Jackets
- 4 x Insulated Shipping Container - ESS Equipment Storage
- 120 x Group Lodging Cots and Mattresses
- 6 x Wheeled Equipment Cases – ESS Reception Centre Equipment

Training and Exercises

- Muster & Reception Centre - Evacuation Simulation Exercises
- NESST Conference attendance
- Group Lodging Training for Westbank First Nation
- ESS awareness training for municipal staff
- First Aid + AED Volunteer training
- Incident Command System 100
- Indigenous Cultural Safety and Humility Training
- Public Information - Communicating ESS

Volunteer Recognition and Retention

- ESS Volunteer End of Year Dinner
- Volunteer of the Year recognition
- ESS Challenge Coin

Partners Identified:

- Westbank First Nation
 - Okanagan Indian Band
 - Okanagan Nation Alliance
 - Kelowna Regional RCMP
 - BC Ambulance
 - BC Hydro
 - FortisBC
 - Central Okanagan Search and Rescue
 - Health Emergency Management BC
 - Interior Health
 - Ministry of Agriculture
 - ALERT (Animal Lifeline Emergency Response Team)
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Considerations:

Organizational/External:

The proposed project will build emergency response capacity by increasing the knowledge of staff, local government stakeholders, First Nation partners and ESS volunteers allowing for practiced and efficient workflow during emergency events.

Financial:

Staff is requesting that 100% of the project costs be covered by this grant.

Considerations not applicable:

- Alternate recommendation
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