Regional Board Report
Request for Decision

To: Regional Board
From: Emergency Operations Centre
Date: March 28, 2024

Subject: UBCM Grant Application – Emergency Operations Centre 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.

Staff have prepared an application to request funding for Emergency Operations Centre Equipment and Training in 2024 to build local capacity by providing in-house, GIS, BCWS, field and external client support training and to purchase supporting equipment.

Recommendation(s):

THAT the Regional Board supports a submission of an application under the 2024 UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for $172,000 under the Emergency Operations Centre Equipment and Training stream.

Respectfully submitted by: Sandra Ballan-Brown, Executive Assistant

Report Approved by: Approved for Agenda:

Dwight Seymour, Kelowna Fire Chief   Sally Ginter, Chief Administrative Officer

Strategic Plan Alignment:

√ Emergency preparedness   √ Truth and reconciliation
☐ Health and wellness   ☐ Environment and climate – Regional priority only
☐ Regional transportation   ☐ Growth and development – Electoral Area priority only

Background:

The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) works closely with BC Wildfire Service and the RCMP during evacuations and the mapping system is currently not supportive of sending and receiving a map from the field Incident Command (IC) to the EOC.

Providing a regional mapping system with specific QR coding and numbering will support all local governments during evacuations and provide training with GIS and IC. This training will ensure timely, correct maps are sent out via notifications to residents from the EOC. In addition, use of updated equipment with the Amateur Radio Club (ARC) and their system with new computers and antennae system will support the IC during infrastructure failure. Using the ARC will provide an additional layer of support when fibres are damaged or radio systems become overwhelmed during major events.

Proposed Project Activities

Purchase of Equipment and Supplies:
- 17 iPads with hardware and sim cards
- Installation and equipment purchase for IC/Field support with Avenza mapping
- Hardware for the ICP (Ipads) and EOC sim card connect
- Amateur radio system-supporting the setup with their infrastructure as backup for a new antennae
- Updated laptops for Amateur Radio Teams setup

Training and Exercises
- In house, GIS, BCWS, field and external client support training that will include 3 days of training for each area
- Mapping between EOC GIS and IC/Field
- BCWS Avenza map on EOC Ipads training scenarios creating evacuation maps in several areas and work with EOC GIS staff for in house training
  - Consulting and GIS support to build out a system to create evacuation maps
  - In house and in field 3 tabletop exercises with each local government
  - Exercise (Field/EOC) to test and train on the new system

Partners
Westbank First Nation, Okanagan Indian Band and Okanagan Nation Alliance will be included to ensure we are supporting a collaborative approach when wildfires interface with our partners.

As this is a Regional grant request, all Central Okanagan partners will be included along with Interior Health, nonprofit communities in each local government (i.e. Turning Points private care facility, gospel mission, CMHA, etc.)

Considerations:

Organizational/External:
The proposed project will build emergency response capacity by increasing the knowledge of staff, local government stakeholders, First Nation partners and EOC Staff allowing for practiced and efficient workflow during emergency events.

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