

DATE: October 1, 2019

FILE: 7200-01

TO: Chair and Directors
Black-Creek/Oyster Bay Services Committee

FROM: Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

Supported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

R. Dyson

RE: UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Application – Fire Departments

Purpose

To seek Board approval to apply to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) for Community Emergency Preparedness Funds (CEPF) grant program for the Oyster River Fire Rescue fire department equipment.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

THAT the Board support an application to the Union of BC Municipalities Community Preparedness Fund in an amount up to \$25,000 for the Oyster River Fire Rescue department for fire department equipment;

AND FURTHER THAT the Comox Valley Regional District provide support and grant funds management.

Executive Summary

The CEPF is a suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations and communities in responding to emergencies.

The CEPF funding stream for 2020 includes funding to build the resiliency of volunteer and composite fire departments through the purchase of new or replacement equipment and to facilitate the delivery of training.

With Board support, staff will apply for up to \$25,000 in grant funds for each of the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) fire departments.

Prepared by:

Concurrence:

Concurrence:

D. Luckett

J. Bast

D. DeMarzo

Don Luckett
Fire Chief, Denman Island

James Bast
Manager of Fire Services

Doug DeMarzo
General Manager of
Community Services

Stakeholder Distribution (Upon Agenda Publication)

Oyster River Fire Rescue	✓
Fanny Bay Volunteer Fire Department	✓
Denman Island Fire Rescue	✓
Hornby Island Fire Rescue	✓

Background/Current Situation

The 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 provided by the Province and is administered by UBCM.

The CEPF funding stream includes funding to build the resiliency of volunteer and composite fire departments through the purchase of new or replacement equipment and to facilitate the delivery of training.

The grant application guide confirms that the regional district is able to apply for a maximum of \$25,000 for each fire department for which it has an established a service area. With Board approval staff will apply for \$25,000 for each of the four CVRD fire departments:

- Denman Island Fire Rescue,
- Hornby Island Fire Rescue,
- Fanny Bay Volunteer Fire Department and
- Oyster River Fire Rescue.

Note: A similar staff report is being presented to the Electoral Areas Services Committee regarding Denman Island Fire Rescue, Hornby Island Fire Rescue and Fanny Bay Volunteer Fire Department's participation in this program.

The deadline for CEPF grant applications is November 15, 2019 for funding in the year 2020. All funded activities must be completed within one year of notification of project approval.

Each CVRD fire department has developed a budget and work-plan for the grant funds based on the needs of the fire department and the community they serve.

The work-plans and grant funding applications include:

- Denman Island Fire Rescue
The approved 2019 financial plan includes funds for the study of alternate water sources towards achieving Superior Tanker Shuttle Service (STSS). The CEPF grant funding opportunity will facilitate the achievement of STSS by providing funds for new water storage tanks to be located strategically on the Island.
- Hornby Island Fire Rescue
It is recognized that because of isolation, the HIFR department would be the initial response to a wildland fire on Hornby Island. The CEPF grant funding opportunity will facilitate the development of a structural protection unit (SPU). The SPU includes portable pumps, hose, sprinklers and other related equipment used to dampen structures and surrounding areas, in advance of an encroaching wildfire.
- Fanny Bay Volunteer Fire Department
The approved 2019 financial plan includes the purchase and equipping of replacement duty officer vehicle to rapidly respond to emergencies. The CEPF grant funding opportunity will facilitate equipping the duty officer truck with the purchase of pumps, hose and other equipment to rapidly protect structures in the event of a wildfire.
- Oyster River Fire Rescue
The Oyster River Fire Rescue department currently maintains a structural protection unit (SPU). The approved 2019- 2023 financial plan includes funds for the purchase of additional pumps, portable tanks and safety gear to augment and replace the current SPU

equipment. The CEPF grant funding opportunity will facilitate the upgrading of the structural protection unit (SPU).

Policy Analysis

UBCM requires a Board resolution indicating support for the current proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management.

Options

The identified options available for Board consideration include:

1. Support for CEPF grant funding application
2. Request further information, or
3. Not support a CEPF grant funding application.

This report provides information in support of option 1.

Financial Factors

The CEPF grant program provides up to \$25,000 for each fire department of the CVRD. CEPF program provides 100 per cent funding with no further contributions required by the regional district.

If successful, grant funding will be captured as revenue during the development of the 2020-2024 financial plans for each fire protection service applying.

Legal Factors

Not relevant

Regional Growth Strategy Implications

Not relevant

Intergovernmental Factors

The CEPF grant program is funded by the Province with grant program management provided by the UBCM.

Interdepartmental Involvement

The community services branch and finance staff collaborated on the development of this report.

Citizen/Public Relations

A successful application for CEPF grant funding will improve the resiliency of the community and enhance the ability of the fire department to quickly respond to emergencies.