



STAFF REPORT TO COMMITTEE

DATE OF REPORT October 3, 2023

MEETING TYPE & DATE Electoral Area Services Committee Meeting of October 18, 2023

FROM: Emergency Management Division
Strategic Services Department

SUBJECT: Community Emergency Preparedness Fund 2023 Volunteer Fire
Department Equipment Grant Application

FILE: 1855-40 VFD Equip Training CEPF 2023 23011A

PURPOSE/INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for a grant application to the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) to purchase fire department equipment and wildland firefighting equipment for the six CVRD-funded fire departments (Malahat, North Oyster, Mesachie Lake, Sahtlam, Honeymoon Bay, Youbou) and the Caycuse Volunteer Fire Department Society. A training component for the establishment of a Peer Support Team for mental health first aid is also included in this grant application.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION

That it be recommended to the Board that a grant application in the amount of \$210,000.00 be submitted to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community *Emergency Preparedness Fund – Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training* for the purchase of fire department equipment, wildland firefighting equipment, and peer support mental health training.

BACKGROUND

To bolster current inventories of firefighting equipment, the Malahat, North Oyster, Sahtlam, Honeymoon Bay, Mesachie Lake, Youbou, and Caycuse Volunteer Fire Departments are seeking provincial grant funding for the purchase of firefighting equipment for both structure and wildland fires. This specialized equipment will augment existing equipment and increase the capacity to respond to emergent events.

In addition, a recognized need is to establish a peer support mental health response team within the Cowichan Valley. One of the most significant stressors for volunteer firefighters is that they often know or are related to the victims of traumatic calls such as motor vehicle accidents, fires involving fatalities or serious injury, overdoses or other serious medical emergencies. Given the multitude of ongoing stressors firefighters face, it has become evident that attention must be paid to the mental health of firefighters. Funding for a mental health training program is included in this application.

ANALYSIS

The CVRD is applying to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund to purchase structural and wildland firefighting equipment. This equipment includes specialized adapters, nozzles, water supply transfer pipes, forestry hose and portable pumps (for fighting wildland fires), sprinkler kits, 3-way valves, and portable water tanks for additional capability to receive and supply water to fire apparatus at firefighting incidents including structure fires and wildland fires.

The intent is to enhance these departments' firefighting capabilities to mitigate the threat of fire loss in their communities.

The application also includes funding for purchasing and replacing personal protective clothing (PPE). According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 1851), the industry standard for firefighting bunker gear (PPE), personal protective clothing must be replaced ten years after the manufacture date. Funding for replacement bunker gear is also included in this application.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The estimated, combined cost of the equipment and training is \$220, 281.48. The eligible amount per department is \$30,000.00, for a maximum regional funding amount possible of \$210,000.00. The three CVRD fire departments and the Caycuse Volunteer Fire Department that exceed the maximum allowable amounts will supplement the purchases proportionally with existing budgets. The other three CVRD fire departments' funding requests come in under the maximum allowable grant limit of \$ 30,000. The amount of funding amount being applied for totals \$ 210,000.00. The CVRD is applying for these funds on behalf of all six CVRD fire departments and the Caycuse Volunteer Fire Department Society, making this a regional project.

COMMUNICATION CONSIDERATIONS

N/A

STRATEGIC/BUSINESS PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

☐ Not Applicable

Referred to (upon completion):

- ☐ Community Services (*Arts & Culture, Cowichan Community Centre, Cowichan Lake Recreation, South Cowichan Recreation, Facilities & Transit*)
- ☐ Corporate Services (*Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Legislative Services*)
- ☐ Operations (*Parks & Trails, Recycling & Waste Management, Utilities*)
- ☐ Land Use Services (*Building Inspection & Bylaw Enforcement, Community Planning, Development Services, Strategic Initiatives*)
- ☒ Strategic Services (*Communications & Engagement, Economic Development, Emergency Management, Environmental Services*)

Prepared by:



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Manager

Reviewed by:



Ryan Wainwright
Sr. Manager, EMC



Clayton Postings
General Manager

Reviewed for form and content and approved for submission to the Committee:

Resolution:

Financial Considerations:

☒ Corporate Officer

☒ Chief Financial Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Budget 2023 UBCM Grant Application