

NO: **R228**

COUNCIL DATE: **December 2, 2019**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **December 2, 2019**

FROM: **Fire Chief**

FILE: **7130-40**

SUBJECT: **UBCM Grant Application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund**

RECOMMENDATION

The Fire Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to submit an application to the Union of B.C. Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for a grant of \$25,000 for the Emergency Operations Centre; and
3. Authorize staff to submit an application to the Union of B.C. Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for a grant of \$25,000 to be used to develop evacuation route plans for the City.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement to submit two Union of BC Municipalities ("UBCM") grant applications to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund ("CEPF") to enhance the resiliency of the City in the event of a large-scale disaster.

BACKGROUND

The CEPF is a suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments and their residents in responding to emergencies. Funding is provided by the Province of BC and is administered by UBCM.

DISCUSSION

Under the Emergency Program Act, municipalities, First Nation communities and regional districts are responsible for responding to emergencies in their area. This includes providing a Local Emergency Plan ("EP") and the training for all emergency response staff to whom responsibilities are assigned in the plan.

The EP follows the model of Incident Command and requires an Emergency Operations Centre ("EOC"). An EOC is a physical location where representatives come together during an emergency to coordinate response and recovery action, resource allocation, and all official

communications in order to support emergency response personnel in the field and expedite community recovery. The intent of this funding stream is to build local capacity through the purchase of equipment and supplies required to maintain or improve EOC's and to enhance EOC capacity through training and exercises. It is not expected that the cost of this activity will exceed the grant funding amount.

Further, the EP requires evacuation route plans to address specific identified hazards, geographic landscape that are inherit within the community and population density to expedite a safe evacuation from the impacted area. Efficient and safe evacuation routes are needed for the movement of people, livestock, animals and personal property from an area of imminent or actual threat to an area of safety. If the grant application is successful, the funds will be utilized to identify available routes, methods of evacuation, modes of transportation, and other factors that may impact the functionality of evacuation routes. It is not expected that the cost of this activity will exceed the grant funding amount.

Finance Review

The Finance Department has reviewed this report and has no concerns.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The UBCM grant application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund supports the objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter 2.0. In particular, this work relates to Sustainability Charter 2.0 theme of Public Safety. Specifically, the initiative supports the following Desired Outcomes ("DO") and Strategic Directions ("SD"):

- Emergency Preparedness and Prevention DO6: Surrey has proactive and coordinated emergency prevention measures in place and can effectively deal with emergencies that arise.
- Community Safety and Emergency Services SD3: Ensure programs, policies and initiatives exist along the public safety continuum, and support the entire community.
- Emergency Preparedness and Prevention SD5: Build community resilience and capacity to respond effectively in an emergency.
- Emergency Preparedness and Prevention SD7: Strengthen and lead in localized emergency planning and response, including updating and developing needed recovery plans.

CONCLUSION

Under the Emergency Program Act, municipalities and regional districts are responsible for responding to emergencies in their area. The CEPF funding outlined above will enhance the resiliency of Surrey in responding to emergencies through EOC training and emergency route planning. As part of the application process, local government Council resolution indicating support for the proposed activities is required. It is recommended that Council approve the submission of applications for these grants of \$25,000 each for Emergency Operations Centre and evacuation route planning.

Larry Thomas
Fire Chief