

NO: R037

COUNCIL DATE: February 22, 2021

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **February 22, 2021**

FROM: **Fire Chief**

FILE: **7130-40**

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

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## 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 support of staff training for the Emergency Operations Centre.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement to submit a Union of BC Municipalities ("UBCM") grant application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund ("CEPF") to enhance the resiliency of the City of Surrey 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 and the training for all emergency response staff to whom responsibilities are assigned in the plan.

Staff have prepared an application for \$25,000 to the UBCM CEPF for the development of online emergency management learning modules. The online learning modules will allow the development and delivery of customized emergency management training with tracking capabilities and increase the number of staff trained in Emergency Operations Centre ("EOC") roles than the current classroom delivery model. As the City of Surrey continues to operate an EOC to respond to COVID-19, it is critical to increase depth of trained staff to prepare and

respond to additional emergencies requiring a coordinated City approach to reduce community impacts.

### **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 of Public Safety. Specifically, the initiative supports the following Desired Outcome ("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 online learning module training.

As part of the application process, local government Council resolution showing support for the proposed activity is required. It is recommended Council approve the submission of the application to the UBCM CEPF for a grant of \$25,000 to enhance staff training for the EOC.

Larry Thomas  
Fire Chief