

NO: R003

COUNCIL DATE: January 17, 2022

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **January 17, 2022**

FROM: **Fire Chief**

FILE: **7130-40**

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

RECOMMENDATION

The Surrey Fire Service recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to apply to the Union of B.C. Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for a grant of \$25,000 to procure supplies to establish a public emergency alerting system for emergency management use and to enhance 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.

The application deadline for the grant application is February 25, 2022. Council resolution is a requirement of the CEPF grant application

DISCUSSION

Under the *Emergency Program Act*, a local authority must develop local emergency plans with respect to preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters. The frequency of emergencies in recent years has identified ways in which Surrey can better prepare staff and the community to withstand the impacts of these events.

As such, staff have prepared an application for \$25,000 to the UBCM CEPF to support the procurement of supplies to establish a Public Emergency Alert System and enhance Emergency Operations Centre ("EOC") training for staff.

A Public Emergency Alert System will:

- Provide accurate, timely and potentially life saving information in large scale emergency events;
- Enable alerts to be sent through a variety of communication channels to have the best opportunity to connect vulnerable individuals with the information needed to mitigate risk and enhance resiliency; and
- Provide the ability to restrict messaging to the geographic area of impact.

Enhanced EOC training will help staff:

- Build capacity in the City for emergency response requiring an EOC activation;
- Develop an integrated emergency response with a shared understanding of staff roles in an emergency; and
- Enhance knowledge about the role of the city in mitigating community impacts from large scale emergency events.

Funding

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$25,000. The grant funding for Emergency Operations Centres & Training will cover 100% of the cost of eligible activities. An ongoing annual licensing fee of \$3,000 per year will be funded from the existing Surrey Emergency Program expenses included in the Fire Service operations budget.

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.
- 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 natural disaster events by establishing a Public Emergency Alert System and enhanced staff training.

Larry Thomas
Fire Chief