



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF COURTENAY

STAFF REPORT

To: Council

File No.: 7320-20

From: Kurt MacDonald, Fire Chief

Date: May 10 2023

Subject: 2023 Emergency Operations Centres and Training – Grant Application

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund grant program and seek a resolution approving the application for the Emergency Operations Centres and Training grant, in partnership with the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD), Town of Comox, Village of Cumberland and K'ómoks First Nation (KFN).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations, and communities in responding to emergencies through funding provided by the Province of BC and administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). This report seeks a resolution from Council to submit a joint grant funding application for 2023 Emergency Operations Centres and Training with they CVRD, Town of Comox, Village of Cumberland and KFN. The 2023 application will include a plan to:

- Regional Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) training and exercise – Finance Branch
- Regional ICS/EOC training and evacuation exercise
- Indigenous cultural safety and humility training for EOC staff

The partnership between the City of Courtenay, CVRD, Town of Comox, Village of Cumberland and KFN looks to maximize the available grant funds to further these objectives without recommending a service establishment and an ongoing commitment of community resources.

BACKGROUND:

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations, and communities in responding to emergencies through funding provided by the Province of BC and administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). The intent of this funding program is to support the purchase of equipment and supplies required to maintain or improve the function of an EOC and to enhance EOC capacity through training and exercise.

DISCUSSION:

With Council support, staff will work with the CVRD, Town of Comox, Village of Cumberland and KFN on a regional application that could result in up to \$150,000 in funding (\$30,000 per applicant). This funding would be used to provide awareness and develop an equitable delivery of emergency management in the Comox Valley that will benefit us all, understand changes to Emergency Management legislation that is scheduled for the fall of 2023, and to deepen our understanding of the Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act

as it applies to emergency management. This funding will also be used to promote a valley wide approach to the advanced planning of the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery of an emergency event.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

The Emergency Program Act is scheduled to be replaced by the Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA) in the fall of 2023. This new legislation will address new standards and best practices such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. A portion of this grant funding will be used to educate staff on these changes and how to implement them in our region.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The grant funding request will be for \$30,000 per applicant.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES REFERENCE:

The 2019 – 2022 Strategic Priorities reference building on our good relations with K’omoks First Nation and practice reconciliation, advocating and cooperating with local and senior governments on regional issues affecting our community, and supporting actions to address Climate Change mitigation and adaptation.

We focus on organizational and governance excellence

●▲ Value community safety and support our protective services

We continually invest in our key relationships

●■ Build on our good relationships with K’omoks First Nation and practice reconciliation.

▲■ Advocate and cooperate with local and senior governments on regional issues affecting our community.

- **AREA OF CONTROL:** The policy, works and programming matters that fall within Council's jurisdictional authority to act
- ▲ **AREA OF INFLUENCE:** Matters that fall within shared or agreed jurisdiction between Council and another government or party
- **AREA OF CONCERN:** Matters of interest that are outside Council's jurisdictional authority to act

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN SUSTAINABILITY REFERENCE:

1.11.3 Fire and Rescue

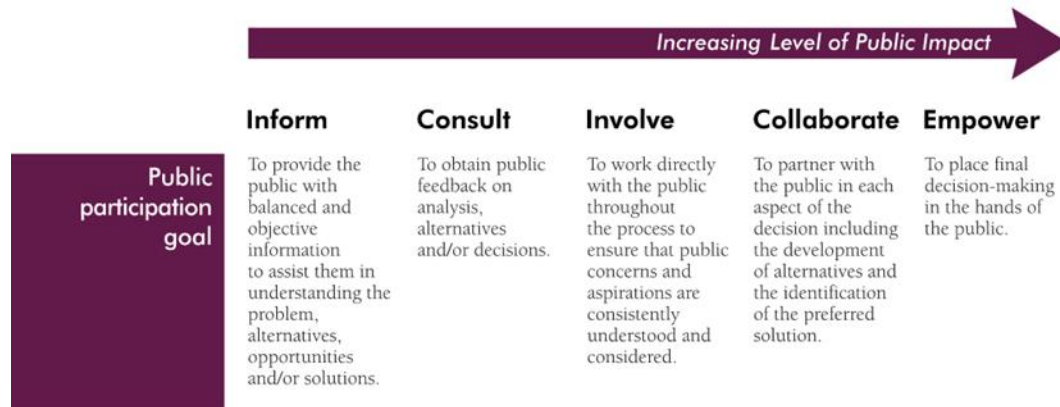
The City currently operates one fire hall located on Cumberland Road and a training facility on Waters Place and serves the regional areas from Spindrift Road (south of Royston) to Smith Road and the City of Courtenay.

REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY REFERENCE:

Not applicable

CITIZEN/PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Staff will **inform** based on the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation:



OPTIONS:

OPTION 1: THAT based on the May 10, 2023 staff report “2023 Emergency Operations Centres and Training – Grant Application”, Council approves OPTION 1 and authorize an application made to the Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (Emergency Operations Centres & Training 2023) for \$30,000 to be used in 2023-2024 to support the regional application by the Comox Valley Regional District (primary applicant); AND FURTHER, THAT as a joint applicant, Council agrees that the primary applicant will apply for, receive, and manage the grant funding on their behalf, if successful in grant funding.

OPTION 2: THAT Council refer back to staff for further review.

Prepared by: Kurt MacDonald, Fire Chief

Concurrence: Geoff Garbutt, M.Pl., MCIP, RPP, City Manager (CAO)