

NO: R218

COUNCIL DATE: December 18, 2023

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **December 12, 2023**  
FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **0550-20**  
SUBJECT: **Union of BC Municipalities Grant for Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to apply for a grant from the Union of BC Municipalities (“UBCM”), Community Emergency Preparedness (“CEP”) Fund for Emergency Support Services (“ESS”) Equipment and Training to purchase equipment and provide training to staff and volunteers as generally described in this report.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council authorization to apply for the UBCM Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training grant in the amount of \$25,000 to purchase equipment for ESS responses and provide training for staff and volunteers.

## BACKGROUND

Under the *Emergency Program Act*, municipalities are responsible for responding to emergencies in their areas, including providing ESS.

The UBCM CEP Fund for ESS Equipment and Training is designed to build local capacity to provide ESS through responder recruitment, retention and training, and the purchase of ESS equipment.

Funding for this grant is provided by the Province of British Columbia and is administered by the UBCM. To receive this grant funding, the UBCM requires a resolution from Council indicating “support for the current proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management.”

## **DISCUSSION**

ESS is a Provincially funded emergency response program that is designed to meet the basic needs of British Columbians impacted by disasters by providing short-term support in a compassionate manner. ESS is designed to provide support for disasters ranging from a single house fire to provincial level events involving large evacuations. These supports enable people to re-establish themselves as quickly as possible after an emergency or disaster.

The 2024 focus of the UBCM CEP Fund for ESS is to continue to support the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (“EMCR”) modernization of local ESS programs to move toward digital registration and reporting through the Evacuee Registration & Assistance (“ERA”) tool.

Under the proposed project, staff will purchase IT equipment and host training opportunities that will enable the City’s ESS team to respond effectively and efficiently in emergencies.

## **FUNDING**

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$25,000. The grant will cover 100% of the cost of this project.

## **CONCLUSION**

The project outlined above will enhance the ability for staff to provide support to the community when impacted by a disaster through enhanced equipment and staff training. As part of the application process, a local government Council resolution showing support for the proposed activity is required and recommended.

Laurie Cavan  
General Manager,  
Parks, Recreation & Culture