

NO: R239

COUNCIL DATE: December 4, 2017

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **November 30, 2017**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **7130-40**  
**Fire Chief, Emergency Program Co-ordinator**

SUBJECT: **Application for a UBCM Emergency Social Services (ESS) Grant**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department and Fire Department recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Approve the submission of an application to the *Community Emergency Preparedness Fund* (CEPF) for a grant in the amount of \$25,000 to purchase and equip a storage trailer for Emergency Social Services (ESS) supplies and equipment and to support and train the City's ESS team.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the City to submit an application for a grant to the CEPF. The grant application is to purchase and equip a mobile storage trailer for ESS supplies and equipment. In addition, the grant application also requests funding to support the training of staff and volunteers in relation to setting up reception centres and use of the mobile trailer. Council approval of such an application is a requirement of CEPF application criteria.

## 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 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

## DISCUSSION

Under the *Emergency Program Act*, municipalities are responsible for responding to emergencies in their areas, including providing ESS. ESS is a provincially funded program to support residents who are forced from their homes by fire, floods, earthquakes, or other emergencies for up to 72 hours. Services include referrals to food, lodging, clothing, as well as emotional support, information, and support with community recovery.

In consultation with the City's ESS Team, and Fire Department, staff have prepared an application for funding in the amount of \$25,000 from the CEPF. The Grant will be utilized to purchase and equip an ESS mobile trailer to support setting up a reception centre in the event of a disaster. Surrey's ESS team will work with key partners including the Semiahmoo First Nation to ensure that the ESS trailer is versatile enough to support the diverse needs within the community.

## **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

This initiative relates to the Sustainability Charter theme of Public Safety. Specifically the initiative supports the following Desired Outcomes and Strategic Directions:

- Community Safety and Emergency Services DO5: Surrey is recognized and perceived as a leader in establishing and maintaining collaborative partnerships for community safety and well-being.
- 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 DO7: Residents, businesses and institutions are empowered and prepared to respond effectively during times of emergency.
- Emergency Preparedness and Prevention DO8: The community's critical infrastructure and systems are designed to withstand climate change impacts and natural events and disasters, and include emergency response and reconstruction plans.
- Community Safety and Emergency Services SD2: Increase community engagement and mobilization in order to enhance personal and public safety.
- Community Safety and Emergency Services SD3: Ensure programs, policies and initiatives exist along the public safety continuum, and support the entire community.
- Community Safety and Emergency Services SD4: Enhance intergovernmental relations, and ensure broad partnerships and collaboration to address multijurisdictional social issues (e.g., homelessness, mental health, addictions, etc.).
- Emergency Preparedness and Prevention SD5: Build community resilience and capacity to respond effectively in an emergency.
- Emergency Preparedness and Prevention SD6: Promote development types and locations that will be minimally impacted by natural disasters.
- Emergency Preparedness and Prevention SD7: Strengthen and lead in localized emergency planning and response, including updating and developing needed recovery plans.

## CONCLUSION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department and Fire Department recommend that Council approve the submission of an application to the *Community Emergency Preparedness Fund* (CEPF) for a grant in the amount of \$25,000 to purchase and equip a storage trailer for Emergency Social Services (ESS) supplies and equipment and to support and train the City's ESS team.

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