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**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 08, 2020**

SUBJECT **Union of British Columbia Municipalities Grant for Emergency Operations Centre - Motion of Support**

ISSUE SUMMARY

Electoral Area (EA) Emergency Programs support communities by coordinating emergency response via Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs). The Capital Regional District (CRD) is applying to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) for funding to procure EA EOC equipment under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) program. UBCM requires that all grant applications be accompanied by a letter of support from the local government.

BACKGROUND

UBCM provides funding for many community based projects, including emergency programs and their EOCs. A 2020/2021 grant opportunity is available to support training and equipment for EA emergency program EOCs.

CEPF grant funds will equally benefit all three CRD EA Emergency Programs, Juan de Fuca (JdF), Southern Gulf Islands (SGI), and Salt Spring Island (SSI). Grant funds will permit emergency programs to procure new and upgraded EOC equipment, including laptops, radios, maps, and other collaboration tools. The total funds requested through the grant application are \$25,000.

As part of the application process, UBCM requires a motion of support from the local government to receive and manage grant funding.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the Board support an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for Juan de Fuca, Southern Gulf Islands, and Salt Spring Island Emergency Programs for Emergency Operations Centre equipment upgrades and direct staff to provide overall grant management.

Alternative 2

That staff be directed to not submit an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Grant to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for Juan de Fuca, Southern Gulf Islands, and Salt Spring Island Emergency Programs for Emergency Operations Centre equipment upgrades.

IMPLICATIONS

Operational Implications

Under the *Emergency Program Act*, the CRD is responsible for coordinating emergency response via EOCs in the EAs. During emergencies, it is important that the EAs and their EOCs be as self-sufficient and as resilient as possible. Grants provide opportunity for additional funding to EA emergency programs and help increase capacity and support communities impacted by emergencies and disasters.

CONCLUSION

The CRD is committed to supporting robust emergency preparedness and response programs in the EAs. The UBCM's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund contributes to Emergency Operations Centre training and equipment. Staff recommend funding equipment upgrades for all three EA emergency programs through the program. If supported by the Board, UBCM will consider the CRD's grant application.

RECOMMENDATION

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the Board support an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for Juan de Fuca, Southern Gulf Islands, and Salt Spring Island Emergency Programs for Emergency Operations Centre equipment upgrades and direct staff to provide overall grant management.

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Concurrence:	Kevin Lorette, P. Eng., MBA, General Manager, Planning & Protective Services
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