

To: Mayor and Council
From: Paul Gipps, CAO

Meeting Date: January 14, 2025
Meeting Type: Regular Council Meeting

Prepared by: Darren Lee, Fire Chief
Department: Protective Services

Title: UBCM-CEPF for ESS Training and Equipment 2025 Intake
Description: RDCO Application to the UBCM-CEPF for ESS Training and Equipment

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) 2025 grant application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) for Emergency Support Services Training and Equipment stream, be supported;
AND THAT the RDCO be authorized to apply for, receive and manage the grant funding on behalf of the District of Lake Country.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The [Union of British Columbia Municipalities - Community Emergency Preparedness Fund](#) (UBCM-CEPF) is a suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency and response capacity of First Nations and local government governments to various emergencies.

With Councils support, Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) staff or consultants will submit a joint application to the UBCM-CEPF under the Emergency Support Services (ESS) Training and Equipment stream for the 2025 intake. The partners in the RDCO Regional Emergency Program include the Westbank First Nation, District of Peachland, City of West Kelowna, Regional District of Central Okanagan, City of Kelowna and District of Lake Country. If the combined application is successful, the grant funding will be used to provide training, equipment and technology supports for the RDCO Regional Emergency Program ESS volunteers and ESS staff.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

ESS is a vital component of the RDCO Regional Emergency Program, which provides centralized support to residents and visitors during emergencies such as wildfires and floods. In the aftermath of the 2023 Wildfires, there has been a concerted effort to enhance ESS capacity, resources, and resiliency within the RDCO. By combining eligible funding amounts of all the local governments within the RDCO, ESS volunteers and ESS staff will be better able to deliver services across the region.

In 2024 DLC Council supported the combined application to the UBCM-CEPF for ESS Training and Equipment stream. The estimated combined value of the 2024 application was \$148,000.00 and the RDCO was awarded \$147,500.00. The 2024 funding supported a variety of ESS volunteer and ESS staff training. This included a live exercise at Royal Lepage Place in West Kelowna. The funding also helped to improve available technology, revise public information materials, support ESS volunteer recruitment and support ESS volunteer recognition.

Impacts on infrastructure, services or staff capacity

RDCO staff or consultants will manage the application, administration and delivery of the 2025 UBCM-CEPF ESS Training and Equipment grant. The impact on DLC staff capacity will be reduced due to the partnership with the RDCO.

Consultation and Communication

The application to the UBCM-CEPF will require certified resolutions from the RDCO Board as well as supporting certified Council resolutions from each of the partners in the RDCO Regional Emergency Program.

Applicable legislation, bylaws and policies

This application is in compliance with the [British Columbia Disaster and Emergency Response Act](#) which was passed into force by the Province of British Columbia in November of 2023. This application is also in compliance with [RDCO Emergency Management Program Bylaw 1444, 2019](#) which was last updated in 2019.

File Chronology

Date	Event
2025-01-21	Regular Council Meeting

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None Budget Previously Approved Other (see below)

The estimated combined value of the 2025 RDCO application to the UBCM-CEPF is \$148,000.00. This estimate is based on RDCO Regional Emergency Program staff analysis of the total combined eligible grant amounts for the Westbank First Nation, District of Peachland, City of West Kelowna, Regional District of Central Okanagan, City of Kelowna and District of Lake Country. Combining and coordinating efforts will minimize the impact on DLC staff time.

COMMUNICATION

This application was referred to the CAO and internal departments.

ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION(S)

THAT Council does not support this report and refer the matter back to Staff for additional comments

Respectfully Submitted.

Darren Lee, Fire Chief

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	UBCM-CEPF for ESS Training and Equipment 2025 Intake.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jan 7, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Reyna Seabrook, Director of Corporate Services - Jan 7, 2025 - 10:04 AM

Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer - Jan 7, 2025 - 10:15 AM