

To: CAO for the Electoral Area Services Committee

Date: 2019-09-10

From: Reg Dyck, Manager of Electoral Area Emergency Services

File No: 1855-30

Subject: Grant Application for the Volunteer and Composite Fire Department Training and Equipment Fund

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board endorse a grant application of up to \$175,000 under UBCM's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund towards training and equipment to support our seven Electoral Area fire departments.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

BACKGROUND

UBCM annually offers grant opportunities for a variety of programs. The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (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 BC Municipalities (UBCM). The Volunteer & Composite Fire Department Training and Equipment funding stream can contribute a maximum of 100% of the cost of eligible activities to a maximum of \$25,000 per Electoral Area fire department for a total of \$175,000. The intent of this funding stream is to build the resiliency of volunteer and composite fire departments through the purchase of new or replacement equipment, and to facilitate the delivery of training and exercises.

DISCUSSION

As each Electoral Area fire department is eligible for up to \$25,000 towards training and/or equipment staff has taken recommendations from each department on training and equipment priorities and will complete the application based on these recommended projects. Some training will be shared with all

other EA departments and possibly our neighbouring mutual aid partners as it can be difficult to fill certain courses from within each department. Training such as Team Leader, and Live Fire may be offered. This training will improve resiliency of each EA fire departments to continue to provide the required emergency response to each community and mutual aid partners. Other activities may include the purchase of wildfire personal protective equipment and other equipment to support structure firefighting and wildland/interface firefighting efforts.

COST

As this grant funding stream can contribute a maximum of 100% of the cost of eligible activities, it is anticipated to have little budgetary impact should the FVRD be successful.

CONCLUSION

Staff is recommending that FVRD apply for funding of up to \$175,000 from UBCM's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund to assist the seven electoral area fire departments in purchasing equipment and provide further training towards structural and wildland/interface firefighting.

COMMENTS BY:

Tareq Islam, Director of Engineering & Community Services

Reviewed and supported.

Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services

Reviewed and supported.

Jennifer Kinneman, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed and supported.