

To: Fraser Valley Regional District Board

Date: 2020-02-25

From: Tarina Colledge, Emergency Management Specialist

File No: 1855-30

**Subject: Grant Application for ESS Modernization Kit and Training**

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### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board endorse a grant application of \$25,000 under UBCM's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Emergency Support Services stream for the acquisition of an ESS kit and ESS training on kit deployment.

### 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 Emergency Support Services funding stream can contribute a maximum of 100% of the cost of eligible activities to a maximum of \$25,000.

### DISCUSSION

Staff is recommending that FVRD apply for a CEPF grant to acquire a pre-assembled deployable Emergency Support Services kit with modernization tools. This would support the development of greater capacity in our ESS program and enhance our ability to respond to incidents that may require activation of Reception Centers or Group Lodging. The Province is in the process of modernizing the mechanism of ESS delivery to those impacted by disaster and local authorities are encouraged to apply for grants that align with digital literacy and modernized technology. The acquisition plan includes the kit, technology tools, and training for ESS staff and volunteers on the implementation and use of the kit. Staff is recommending an application for the maximum of \$25,000.

This recommendation is being brought directly to the Board in the interest of time as the deadline for a grant funding submission was February 14, 2020. Our application has been accepted pending Board approval.

### **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 FVRD be successful. If unsuccessful it is anticipated that all modernization tools for ESS would need to be funded from the Electoral Area Emergency Management budget.

### **CONCLUSION**

Staff is recommending that FVRD apply for funding of up to \$25,000 from UBCM's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund in order to address ESS development and modernization.

### **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.