



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: November 1, 2017
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Meeting Date: November 14, 2017

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: General Manager of Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management in consultation with the General Managers of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability and Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services.

SUBJECT: Funding Applications to BC Community Emergency Preparedness Fund

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve a funding application to UBCM's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund - Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping and Flood Mitigation Planning for \$150,000 toward the Fraser River Flood Management - Public Engagement project.
- B. THAT Council approve a funding application to UBCM's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund - Emergency Social Services for \$25,000 towards the purchase of an Emergency Social Services vehicle.

REPORT SUMMARY

The City's [2015-2018 Capital Plan](#) funding strategy contemplates securing of senior government contributions toward a number of Council priorities. The applications support climate change adaptation and the delivery of emergency social services.

This report seeks Council's approval for submitting funding applications to two streams of the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) BC Community Emergency Preparedness Fund:

- The Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping & Flood Mitigation Planning stream; and
- The Emergency Social Services stream.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

UBCM funding programs typically require a resolution of Council as part of the application package.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management and the General Manager of Planning, Urban Design & Sustainability recommend approval of the report.

REPORT

Background/Context

The [Community Emergency Preparedness Fund](#) (CEPF) was created by the Province in March 2017 with an allocation of \$32 Million. It is managed by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

The program is meant to enhance the resiliency of local governments and their residents in responding to emergencies. There are five streams with sequential deadlines over the next 8 months. This report is seeking Council approval for the following two streams:

- Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping and Flood Mitigation Planning; and
- Emergency Social Services.

The Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping and Flood Mitigation Planning stream provides funding to support applicants in understanding flood hazards they face and in developing effective strategies to mitigate and prepare for these risks. The maximum grant under this stream is 100% of project costs up to \$150,000 and the deadline for applications was October 27th, 2017.

The Emergency Social Services stream provides funding to support applicants to build local capacity to provide emergency social services through training, volunteer recruitment and retention, and the purchase of equipment. The maximum grant under this stream is 100% of project costs up to \$25,000 and the deadline for applications is November 17th, 2017.

A resolution of Council is required for each funding application. Resolutions can be submitted after the application submission deadline.

Strategic Analysis

Fraser River Flood Management - Public Engagement Project

The application to support this project is being submitted under the Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping and Flood Mitigation Planning stream.

A phased Coastal Flood Risk Assessment undertaken in 2014 (CFRA Phase 1) and 2015 (CFRA Phase 2) identified the Fraser River waterfront from Boundary Road to Southlands as a priority zone requiring near term planning and action to mitigate vulnerability to present day flooding and future flooding. This project will take that first step by engaging residents and stakeholders in a values-based discussion to gather input on preferences for adaptation solutions that can help inform the City's sea level rise planning efforts.

The project will start in mid-November and take approximately 8 to 10 months to complete.

Emergency Social Services Response Vehicle

The application to support the purchase of an Emergency Social Services Response Vehicle is being submitted under the Emergency Social Services stream.

The City of Vancouver Emergency Social Services teams respond to over 30 ESS incidents per year and have assisted over 1,200 evacuees in the past 3 years. Two of the recurring gaps or challenges identified through debriefs from these incidents are:

1. The ability to provide a single coordinated response, deployable from a central location with enough supplies to meet the needs of evacuees; and
2. The ability to find quiet space on the site of the incident for response planning and a safe place for volunteers to take a break during a response.

A custom designed ESS response vehicle carrying cots, blankets and other supplies required for a swift coordinated response could be deployed from a central Fire Hall. This would allow ESS team members to also deploy from the central location, limiting the number of personal vehicles at the incident site and eliminating the need to have volunteers transporting supplies in their personal vehicles.

The ESS vehicle would provide a location for ESS team members to meet, strategize and plan with minimal interruptions, streamlining the coordination of the response and delivery of services to evacuees. The vehicle would also provide a safe and warm place for team members to take a break and decompress during a response.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk (if applicable)

Financial

The Fraser River Flood Management - Public Engagement project is estimated to cost approximately \$160,000. Staff are recommending that the City request the maximum \$150,000 in UBCM funding. The City will contribute \$10,000 in-kind through the provision of professional services delivered by staff.

The purchase and configuration of the ESS response vehicle is estimated to cost \$75,000. Staff are recommending that the City request the maximum \$25,000 in UBCM funding. The City of Vancouver will fund the remaining \$50,000, with the source of funding being the existing Fire & Rescue Services capital budget.

CONCLUSION

By applying to the BC Community Emergency Preparedness fund, the City has the opportunity to access external funding of up to \$150,000 to support a climate adaptation project and \$25,000 to support the delivery of emergency social services.

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