



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: November 14, 2023
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Meeting Date: November 28, 2023
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TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management
SUBJECT: Funding Application to Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation Program

Recommendations

THAT Council approve a funding application in the amount \$5,246,000 submitted to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities' Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation program, for three projects that would reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and the effects of climate change;

FURTHER THAT subject to the successful application, Council approve the related budget adjustments as described in this report.

Purpose and Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of a funding application to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation (DRR-CA) program submitted on October 6, 2023.

If the application is approved, the City could receive up to \$5,246,000 towards the cost of the following three projects:

1. Fraser River Flood Mitigation Options Study (Angus Dr. to Wallace St. Ditch) (\$150,000)
2. Portable Air Conditioners for Residents in Non-Market Housing (\$150,000)
3. Building Upgrades for Safe Centres at Carnegie and Kensington Community Centres (\$4,946,000)

As part of the application approval process, UBCM requires a resolution indicating Council's support for the proposed projects and willingness for City Staff to provide overall grant management. UBCM's process allows for Council endorsements following the submission of an application.

If this application is successful, the funding received for the Fraser River Flood Mitigation Options Study (Angus Dr. to Wallace St. Ditch) will be applied to reduce the City's portion of the overall project budget. The portable air conditioners and building upgrades for safe centres is not currently funded and will not proceed if the funding application is not successful.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

Provincial funding programs often require a resolution from City Council to support the funding application package.

On June 29, 2022, Council approved the 2023-2026 Capital Plan, which directed staff to pursue external funding opportunities to achieve Council's public policy objectives, including capital investments to advance the Climate Emergency Action Plan and the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy to deliver additional climate mitigation and adaptation benefits.

On October 25, 2022, Council endorsed a funding application to UBCM's DRR-CA for three projects to reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and climate-related risks. The application was successful and the City received \$975,000.

On April 25, 2023, Council endorsed a funding application to UBCM's DRR-CA for three projects to reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and climate related risks. The application was successful and the City received \$2,008,010.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

The Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation (DRR-CA) program is part of UBCM's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), and the primary objective is to enhance the resilience of local governments, First Nations and communities in responding to emergencies.

The CEPF was created by the Province of British Columbia in March 2017, with an allocation of \$32 Million, and administered by UBCM. In February 2023, the Province committed \$180 million in new funding to the CEPF. The intent of the DRR-CA program is to support eligible applicants to reduce risks from future disasters, due to natural hazards and climate-related risks, through the development and implementation of:

- accurate foundational knowledge of the natural hazards they face and the risks associated with BC's changing climate; and
- effective strategies to prepare for, mitigate and adapt to those risks.

The DRR-CA program has three categories:

- Category 1: Foundational activities (risk mapping, risk assessments, planning)
- Category 2: Non-structural activities (land use planning, community education, purchase of eligible equipment)
- Category 3: Small scale structural activities

The City submitted the allowable maximum of one project per category.

Discussion

The City has submitted the projects described below, that are best aligned with the program's criteria, to the three DRR-CA funding application categories.

Category 1 – Fraser River Flood Mitigation Options Study (Angus Dr. to Wallace St. Ditch) (\$150,000)

The Coastal Flood Risk Assessment identified the Fraser River floodplain to be the most vulnerable area in Vancouver to coastal flooding, given that it is already exposed to flood hazard under the current sea level and increasing flood risk due to sea level rise.

DRR-CA funding would be used to complete the next phase of Fraser River flood mitigation options study, following current work underway which is also funded by a previous successful UBCM CEPF application. Key deliverable will be a report detailing options to adapt to sea level rise and coastal flooding, while integrating drainage requirements in the Fraser River floodplain (Angus Dr. to Wallace St. Ditch). This will include flood hazard modeling, mapping, drawings, and cost estimates.

Category 2 – Portable Air Conditioners for Residents in Non-Market Housing (\$150,000)

Purchase 98 portable air conditioners and install them in units at three residences that provide non-market housing.

1. Barclay Heritage Square (Non-market houses along Broughton and Haro Streets)
2. Seymour Residences (1105 Seymour Street)
3. New Continental (1067 Seymour Street)

The residences in this proposal currently have no air conditioning for tenants and provide housing to a number of people who are at higher risk from extreme heat exposure. Ensuring people can stay cool within residences was one of the recommended interventions in the Report to the Chief Coroner of British Columbia examining heat-related deaths from the Heat Dome in 2021.

Category 3 – Building Upgrades for Safe Centres at Carnegie and Kensington Community Centres (\$4,946,000)

Upgrade Carnegie and Kensington Community Centres to operate as Safe Centres during extreme weather and poor air quality events. Existing mechanical equipment will be replaced with heat pump systems that provide cooling capability and increased air filtration to improve indoor air quality and use less energy to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Upgrading the equipment at these sites would increase capacity for cooling throughout the centres, instead of having a single designated cooling room, as well as increasing air filtration functionality. Funding would be used to install permanent cooling systems in place of the temporary cooling equipment that is used at these two sites when they are activated as cooling centres.

Financial Implications

The DRR-CA program covers 100% of eligible costs to the following maximums:

Category 1 - Category 2 - Category 3 -
 \$150,000 \$150,000 \$5,000,000

Table 1 below summarizes the DRR-CA funding request by project.

Table 1: Funding Sources

Activity	Project Budget	DRR-CA Funding Request	City Share
Fraser River Flood Mitigation Plan	\$320,000	\$150,000	\$170,000
Portable Air Conditioners for Residents in Non-Market Housing	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$-
Building Upgrades for Safe Centres at Carnegie and Kensington Community Centres	\$4,946,000	\$4,946,000	\$-
Total	\$5,416,000	\$5,246,000	\$170,000

If this application is successful, the funding received will be added to the 2023-26 Capital Plan for the respective capital programs. Funding received for the Fraser River Flood Mitigation Options Study (Angus Dr. to Wallace St. Ditch), would replace a portion of the existing approved budget and free up capacity to deliver additional flood and watershed planning projects. The other two projects are not currently included in the 2023-2026 Capital Plan; if successful, new multi-year project budgets will be created for these projects.

Legal Implications

If the funding application is approved, the City will receive an Approval Agreement from UBCM that outlines the terms and conditions for receiving all of the funding. The approval agreement is signed by the Director of Legal Services. Grants are awarded in two payments: 50% when the signed Approval Agreement has been returned to UBCM, and the remainder when the project is complete and the final reporting requirements have been met.

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