

DATE OF MEETING | March 2, 2020 |

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**SUBJECT UNION OF BC MUNICIPALITIES COMMUNITY EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS FUND GRANT 2020**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain Council support, for a grant application to the Union of British Columbia (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Funds (CEPF) for enhanced Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) capacity, through the purchase of additional equipment. |

Recommendation

That Council endorse the application for the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund grant and the administration for \$25,000 to enhance the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) capacity through the purchase of additional equipment.

BACKGROUND

In October 2017, UBCM introduced the community emergency preparedness fund, intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments in responding to emergencies. Funding is provided by the Province of British Columbia and is administered by UBCM. Funding streams are available for several categories including upgrades and enhancements to Emergency Operations Centres.

UBCM is accepting grant applications through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) to improve the operations and capacity in local government Emergency Operations Centres (EOC).

An EOC is a physical location where staff, other jurisdictions, First Nations, and community organizations or agencies come together during an emergency to coordinate response and recovery actions, manage resources, support emergency response personnel in the field and coordinate all official communications regarding the emergency

Under the Emergency Program Act, Municipalities are responsible for responding to emergencies in their area. An EOC is part of the structure local government must have in order to manage, track and support emergencies that may happen in their community.

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DISCUSSION

The City of Nanaimo is applying to the UBCM Emergency Operations Centre and training stream in the amount of \$25,000, the maximum amount that can be applied for under this grant stream. The grant application is due on March 13, 2020. The funding will support additional equipment for the existing EOC and the new EOC which is slated to be completed in 2022 with the Fire Station 1 rebuild. The City of Nanaimo EOC can also be a Regional EOC in partnership with surrounding communities and First Nations through an existing Regional Emergency Management Agreement.

In the current EOC there are twelve (12) computers and four (4) wall monitors. If approved, the EOC grant application would fund the purchase of an additional eight (8) wall monitors with mounts and an additional four (4) laptops. The additional monitors would provide visual enhancements as well as improved posting and tracking of situational information, and the additional four (4) laptops would allow for improved input of critical information and completion of documentation and financial tracking.

In post incident reviews and training sessions, feedback from staff and attending organizations and agencies mentioned the lack of visual capabilities/capacity in the EOC, especially in the management of public communications and information and situational awareness as well as the tracking of assets, financial impacts and multiple location tracking for the City. Currently, those attending the EOC are required to share computers to complete their work often causing delays and the potential for loss of information.

Having this additional equipment will improve the City of Nanaimo's ability to manage incidents and provide the necessary tools for City staff and others attending to manage the event

There is no financial impact to the City of Nanaimo. |

OPTIONS

1. That Council endorse the application for the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund grant and the administration for \$25,000 to enhance the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) capacity through the purchase of additional equipment.
 - Advantages of this option: Supports City of Nanaimo strategic priority for Public Safety. Having this additional equipment will improve the City of Nanaimo's ability to manage emergencies and provide the necessary tools for City staff to manage the event
 - Disadvantages of this option: none
 - Budget Implication: There is no financial impact to the City of Nanaimo

2. That Council not support the grant application.
 - Advantages of this option: none
 - Disadvantages of this option: Staff will continue to use existing tools in managing emergencies until other funding sources for this equipment are identified.
 - Budget Implication: Any funding for additional equipment will come from City of Nanaimo. |

SUMMARY POINTS

- The City of Nanaimo is applying to UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness fund in the amount of \$25,000.
- If successful, the grant would fund the purchase of eight (8) wall monitors with mounts and four (4) laptops that will improve the ability to manage emergencies and track critical information.
- There is no financial impact to the City of Nanaimo.

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