

DATE OF MEETING    DECEMBER 11, 2024

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**SUBJECT              HEALTH CANADA EMERGENCY TREATMENT FUND**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report:**

To advise the Finance and Audit Committee that the City has submitted a proposal for funding of \$442,752 to the Emergency Treatment Fund.

## **BACKGROUND**

On October 11 2024, Health Canada announced a call for proposals for Health Canada's Emergency Treatment Fund (ETF). The fund will invest \$150 million over three years to municipalities and First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities to address urgent needs and support rapid responses to the toxic drug use and overdose crisis.

The ETF will provide short-term support to rapidly mobilize and build capacity for enhanced access to trauma-informed, evidence-based substance use treatment, harm reduction and integrated services such as Naloxone distribution and drug checking equipment. Funding will be responsive and adaptive to allow communities to address urgent needs in the way that best addresses their unique circumstances.

The 2024 Call for Proposals (CFP) deadline was November 8, 2024. The maximum funding allowed per recipient is \$2 million per fiscal year. Subsequent CFPs are planned for Spring 2025 and Spring 2026.

## **DISCUSSION**

City of Nanaimo ("the City") staff submitted a proposal requesting \$442,752 to purchase and fully outfit three electric fleet vehicles for the Community Safety Officer (CSOs) team. Funds requested include the cost of laptops and specialized first aid equipment required for overdoes medical responses for each vehicle, as well as the cost of an additional EV charger. This project is not included in the 2025-2029 Draft Financial Plan and would be contingent on a successful funding proposal. If the proposed funding is awarded, the financial implications of the 2025 Business Case Community Safety Action Plan Strategy previously presented to Council will be impacted.

As referenced in the Downtown Nanaimo Community Safety Action Evaluation and Strategy Alignment Report (DNCSAP Evaluation Report) presented to the Governance and Priorities Committee on 2024-APR-29, the CSOs presence downtown has made a notable impact on the

perception of safety. Since inception, the CSOs have administered more than 2,000 units of Naloxone and performed lifesaving CPR at more than 120 overdose events.

The City currently has only one vehicle assigned to the CSO unit. Most CSO patrols are conducted on foot or bicycles which limits access to medical supplies needed to effectively respond to overdose emergencies, and officers must return to the office to attend to report writing and other administrative duties. The addition of vehicles fully outfitted with computers, and more substantial life saving equipment, would result in increased street presence and reduced response time to overdoses, enabling officers to patrol a greater geographical area and improving the quality of care provided. |

### **CONCLUSION**

The City is actively pursuing other revenue sources such as grants to fund responses to toxic drug use and the overdose crisis. |

### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- The newly announced Health Canada's Emergency Treatment Fund (ETF) announced a Call for Proposal (CFP) on October 11, 2024.
- The deadline for proposal submission was November 8, 2024.
- The City submitted a proposal for funding of three new electric fleet units equipped with computers and medical supplies to respond to overdose emergencies for the Community Safety Officer (CSOs) team.

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