

DATE OF MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2025

AUTHORED BY DEANNA WALKER, SENIOR ACCOUNTANT
EVAN LLOYD, MANAGER, EMERGENCY PROGRAM

SUBJECT UBCM Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training Program Grant Application

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain a Council resolution for the grant application submitted to the UBCM Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training Program.

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve the grant application to the UBCM Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training Program for funding for the Nanaimo ESS Group Lodging Supplies regional project and support the City of Nanaimo providing overall grant management as the primary applicant.

BACKGROUND

UBCM's Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training Funding Stream (ESSET) is part of the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) suite of programs intended to support First Nations and Local Governments to better prepare for disasters and reduce risks from natural hazards.

The intent of the ESSET funding stream is to support eligible applicants to build local capacity to provide emergency support services through Emergency Support Services (ESS) volunteer/responder recruitment, retention and training, and the purchase of ESS equipment.

The program provides funding to a maximum of \$40,000 per applicant. The City of Nanaimo (the City) has applied as the primary applicant of a regional project. Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN) has agreed to partner with the City and at the time of this report, we have tacit agreement of partnership with the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and the District of Lantzville (Lantzville) for total funding available of \$160,000.

The grant application deadline was **January 31, 2025**. Staff have received approval from UBCM to submit the Council resolution after the deadline. Applicants will be advised of the status of their application by May 1, 2025.

DISCUSSION

The Nanaimo region consisting of the City, the RDN, Lantzville and SFN is the only urban centre in mid-Vancouver Island. The Nanaimo ESS Group Lodging Supplies project will enable the

Nanaimo region to collaboratively develop the capacity to conduct emergency group lodging, both in the event of our own needs but also to serve as a host community if requested.

This project would enable the City to secure an inventory of approximately 700 cots, blankets and other incidentals needed in case of a group lodging activation. The City would manage and store this inventory. Having this equipment on hand would help to ensure a quick support response to any future emergencies requiring evacuations and temporary lodging.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Nanaimo ESS Group Lodging Supplies project is not part of the 2025-2029 Financial Plan and is contingent on the grant funding being approved.

OPTIONS

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve the grant application to the UBCM Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training Program for funding of the Nanaimo ESS Group Lodging Supplies regional project and supports the City of Nanaimo providing overall grant management as the primary applicant.
 - The advantages of this option: This project would enable the City and its partners to be able to lodge approximately 700 evacuees quickly and efficiently but having the necessary equipment readily available.
 - The disadvantages of this option: City staff time would be required to manage the inventory as a liaison with RDN, Lantzville and SFN, and the City would need to designate space for this equipment. A group lodging activation would likely displace scheduled programming at City facilities which would result in a loss of revenue.
 - Financial Implications: This project is contingent on a successful grant application. The 2025-2029 Financial Plan would be amended to include the grant funding if the application is successful.

2. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council instruct staff to withdraw the application for funding of the Nanaimo ESS Group Lodging Supplies.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The City has applied for funding for the Nanaimo ESS Group Lodging Supplies project under the UBCM Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training Program.
- The City expects to partner with the RDN, Lantzville and SFN for this project and agrees to provide overall grant management if the grant application is successful.
- The grant application deadline was January 31, 2025.

Submitted by:

Deanna Walker
Senior Accountant

Evan Lloyd
Manager, Emergency Program |

Concurrence by:

Tim Doyle
Fire Chief

Dhanya Balachandran
Manager, Financial Planning

Richard Harding,
General Manager, Community Services and
Deputy CAO

Wendy Fulla,
Director, Finance

Laura Mercer,
General Manager, Corporate Services |