



RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER

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STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED: March 21, 2023 **REPORT:** 23-030
FROM: Protective Services **FILE:** 7130-00
SUBJECT: RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES
PREPAREDNESS GRANT

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

That the recommendation of the General Manager of Corporate and Community Services be endorsed.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council endorse submission of the grant application to the Union of B.C. Municipalities for the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) Emergency Social Services Preparedness Grant, attached as Appendix A to Report 23-030; and

That Council support the proposed activities in the grant application; and further,

That Council supports the RMOW Emergency Program utilizing the grant and providing overall Grant management, if the funding application is successful.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's endorsement of the proposed grant application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). This grant would fund additional supplies and training exercises designed to support Emergency Support Services (ESS) readiness and capacity. For the RMOW to be eligible for UBCM grant funding a Council resolution indicating support for the grant application, and direction to provide overall grant management, must be submitted with the application.

Information Report

Administrative Report (Decision or Direction)

DISCUSSION

Background

The CEPF is a suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations and communities in responding to emergencies. Funding is provided by the Province of BC

and is administered by UBCM.

UBCM is currently accepting grant applications to the CEPF funding stream. The 2023 grant application found in Appendix A of this report, seeks to fund ESS supplies, equipment, and emergency exercises.

Analysis

The following sections introduce the 2023 grant proposal, including its purpose, deliverables, approach and rationale.

Purpose

The intent of this funding stream is to build local capacity to provide emergency support services through ESS volunteer/responder recruitment, retention and training, and the purchase of ESS equipment.

Proposed RMOW 2023 Grant Proposal Deliverables and Approach

1. Supplies and Equipment:

In 2022, the RMOW acquired a 20-foot shipping container under the ESS Resiliency Project. 2023 grant funds will capitalize on the ESS Resiliency Project by acquiring necessary supplies and equipment for the container and organizing it into easily deployable units. Materials include rolling bins to move cots, 25 portable cots, 80 disposable sleeping bags, four accessible cots & a 10-person group emergency kit.

2. 2023 Joint Functional Exercises:

The grant will include two one-day joint functional exercises with the District of Squamish (DOS) to improve the operational readiness of the ESS volunteers and interoperability between neighboring emergency programs. These exercises will help evaluate the effectiveness of deployed resources, policy, procedures and training, as well as improve interoperability with neighboring communities. One functional exercise will be held in Squamish and a second exercise will be hosted by RMOW out of our mobile response container. Both exercises will provide the opportunity to test the operational readiness of RMOW & DOS ESS systems.

The Grant Rationale:

This project will increase RMOW capacity as a host community through the acquisition of new deployable ESS supplies for major emergencies/disasters.

The associated exercises improves RMOW mass care capabilities including the ability to support evacuees from neighbouring jurisdictions such as the Squamish Lillooet Regional District (SLRD), Pemberton and Squamish.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Relevant Council Authority/Previous Decisions

[February 22, 2022 Administrative Report No. 22-022](#) 2022 UBCM Emergency Preparedness Fund Grants

This project ensures that the RMOW maintains compliance with the BC Emergency Program Act to “coordinate the provision of food, clothing, shelter, transportation and medical services to victims of emergencies and disasters, whether that provision is made from within or outside of the local authority” as listed in the BC Emergency Program Act - Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation [2(3)(f)], and the Resort Municipality of Whistler Emergency Measures Bylaw No. 1593, 2002.

This project also serves to meet the objectives of the Emergency Planning Committee terms of reference as follows:

- i. To ensure all emergency planning responsibilities as set out in the BC Emergency Program Act, the RMOW Emergency Measures Bylaw No. 1593, 2002, and the RMOW Emergency Plan are adequately met.

Corporate Plan

The RMOW Corporate Plan is updated annually and articulates strategic direction for the organization. This section identifies how this report links to the plan.

Council Focus Areas

- Community Balance

*Effectively **balance resort and community needs** through deliberate planning, partnerships and investment*

- Climate Action

*Provide leadership to **accelerate climate action and environmental performance** across the community*

- Housing

*Advance strategic and innovative initiatives to enable and **deliver additional employee housing***

- Pandemic Recovery

*Leadership and support for **community and tourism recovery and sustainability** – priority focuses are where recovery needs intersect with other Council focus areas*

- Not Applicable

Corporate Goals

- Community character and mountain culture is reflected in municipal initiatives
- Municipal decision-making supports the effective stewardship of natural assets and ecological function

MARCH 21, 2023

- Corporate policies and operations ensure continuous excellence in infrastructure, facility and program management
- A high level of accountability, transparency and community engagement is maintained
- Corporate financial health is optimized to ensure long-term community success
- A vibrant local economy and safe, resilient resort community is effectively reinforced by organizational activities

Community Vision and Official Community Plan

The Official Community Plan (OCP) is the RMOW's most important guiding document that sets the community vision and long-term community direction. This section identifies how this report applies to the OCP.

8. Health Safety and Well Being

8.2. Goal: Promote efforts to enhance the quality of life for all residents and employees.

8.2.1. Objective: Strive to increase affordability for residents.

8.2.1.1. Policy: Create strategies and mechanisms to ensure basic needs, including housing, food, transportation, childcare, recreation and health care, are affordable for all who live and work in Whistler.

8.6. Goal: Create and embed effective governance mechanisms and partnerships to create trust, responsibility and accountability. **8.6.2. Objective:** Work with partners to achieve mutual benefits.

8.6.2.1. Policy: Collaborate with community and regional partners wherever possible and practical.

8.11. Goal: Strive to ensure community health and social services and facilities meet the physical, mental, spiritual and social needs of residents and visitors.

8.11.1. Objective: Engage with service providers and the community to maintain and coordinate high quality services with a particular focus on the needs of those who are most vulnerable.

8.11.1.9. Policy: Engage with social service providers to ensure an adequate level of services is maintained.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

If the grant application is successful, the project described above totalling \$17,750 will be 100% grant funded. Staff time to administer the funds and oversee the projects will be funded through existing 2023 RMOW operating budgets.

LÍLWAT NATION & SQUAMISH NATION CONSIDERATIONS

The RMOW is committed to working with the Líl'wat People, known in their language as *L'il'wat7úl* and the Squamish People, known in their language as the *Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw* to: create an enduring relationship; establish collaborative processes for Crown land planning; achieve mutual objectives; and enable participation in Whistler's resort economy.

There are no specific considerations to include in this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Level of community engagement commitment for this project:

Inform Consult Involve Collaborate Empower

The RMOW Emergency Program collaborated with the DOS ESS team to provide input as subject matter experts in their field.

REFERENCES

Appendix A – RMOW CEPF Emergency Social Services Preparedness Grant

SUMMARY

This report presents the 2023 RMOW grant application for the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Emergency Support Services Grant, which will enhance the capacity of the RMOW and community stakeholders to respond to ESS events and provide support for surrounding communities. A council resolution indicating support for the grant application, and direction to provide overall grant management must be submitted with the application.

SIGN-OFFS

Written by:

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ESS Coordinator

Reviewed by:

Lindsay DeBou,
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Ted Battiston,
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Services

Virginia Cullen,
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