

**RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER**

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## STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

**PRESENTED:** September 26, 2023  
**FROM:** Whistler Fire Rescue Services  
**SUBJECT:** 2023 UBCM COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUND GRANT  
APPLICATION – VOLUNTEER AND COMPOSITE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING

**REPORT:** 23-101  
**FILE:** 1855-20

### RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**That** the recommendation of the General Manager of Corporate Services and Public Safety be endorsed.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

**That** Council endorse the submission of a grant application to the Union of B.C. Municipalities under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for Volunteer and Composite Fire Department Equipment and Training stream (Grant Application) attached as Appendix A to Administrative Report 23-101; and

**That** Council support the proposed activities in the Grant Application; and further

**That** Council approves the Whistler Fire Rescue Services as the primary applicant to apply for, receive and manage the grant funding on their behalf, if successful.

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's endorsement of the proposed grant application (Grant Application) to the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM). The grant is for \$30,000 and would fund required training to meet the B.C. Structure Firefighter Minimum Training Standards for fire officers in Whistler Fire Rescue Services (WFRS). For the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) to be eligible for UBCM grant funding, a Council resolution indicating support for the primary applicant to apply for, receive and manage the grant funding must be submitted with the application.

☐ Information Report

☒ Administrative Report (Decision or Direction)

### DISCUSSION

#### Background

UBCM is currently accepting grant applications under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) Volunteer and Composite Fire Department Equipment and Training funding stream (Grant

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

Application). The Grant Application seeks funding to improve training for WFRS paid on call and career staff who are required to fill the role as a fire officer in accordance with the B.C. Structure Firefighter Minimum Training Standards.

### **Analysis**

Currently the paid-on call firefighters that fill the role of fire officer do not meet the fire officer training requirements as per the B.C. Structure Firefighter Minimum Training Standards. In addition, with future career staff retirements, there is a need to prepare and train existing career staff for succession into the role of fire officer to meet the B.C. Structure Firefighter Minimum Training Standards. The training will provide the necessary knowledge, skill, and abilities to effectively manage and direct firefighters during emergency incidents as a fire officer in our community and/or while assisting our partner agencies.

The CEPF Grant Application is due October 20, 2023.

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## **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Relevant Council Authority/Previous Decisions**

This project ensures that the RMOW achieves and maintains compliance with the BC Structure Firefighter Minimum Training Standards established by the Office of the Fire Commissioner in the Province of B.C.

### **2023-2026 Strategic Plan**

The 2023-2026 Strategic Plan outlines the high-level direction of the RMOW to help shape community progress during this term of Council. The Strategic Plan contains four priority areas with various associated initiatives that support them. This section identifies how this report links to the Strategic Plan.

### **Strategic Priorities**

☐ Housing

*Expedite the delivery of and longer-term planning for employee housing*

☒ Climate Action

*Mobilize municipal resources toward the implementation of the Big Moves Climate Action Plan – these funds will support the Climate Action Plan for Wildfire Mitigation by providing WFRS the required training needed at the fire officer level for wildfire incidents.*

☐ Community Engagement

*Strive to connect locals to each other and to the RMOW*

☐ Smart Tourism

*Preserve and protect Whistler's unique culture, natural assets and infrastructure –*

☒ Not Applicable

*Aligns with core municipal work that falls outside the strategic priorities but improves, maintains, updates and/or protects existing and essential community infrastructure or programs*

### **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. The Grant Application aligns with the OCP goals under Section 8 Health Safety and Well Being: *"Maintain a safe community through the provisions of*

*sufficient fire, rescue and emergency services.” and policy 8.7.2.7 “ensure training standards are met and staff is able to effectively respond to emergency events”.*

### **BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**

If the Grant Application is successful, the training activities will be 100% funded in the amount of \$30,000.

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### **LÍŁWAT NATION & SQUAMISH NATION CONSIDERATIONS**

The RMOW is committed to working with the LÍŁwat 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.

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### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Level of community engagement commitment for this project:

☒ Inform      ☐ Consult      ☐ Involve      ☐ Collaborate      ☐ Empower

Comment(s):

Should the Grant Application be approved, communications will be developed to inform the community of the funding and project deliverables in accordance with UBCM and RMOW requirements.

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### **REFERENCES**

Appendix A – CEPF Grant Application 2023  
Appendix B - CEPF Grant Program and Application Guide

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### **SUMMARY**

Staff is seeking Council endorsement for the \$30,000 Grant Application to UBCM under the CEPF. This initiative will enhance the training and capacity of the WFRS to respond to and mitigate the impacts of emergency events in our community, and to assist our partner agencies if needed. A Council resolution indicating WFRS as the primary applicant to apply for, receive and manage the grant funding must be submitted with the application.

### **SIGN-OFFS**

#### **Written by:**

Thomas Doherty,  
Fire Chief

#### **Reviewed by:**

Ted Battiston,  
General Manager, Corporate Services and  
Public Safety

Virginia Cullen,  
Chief Administrative Officer