



WHISTLER

REPORT | ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED: April 06, 2021

REPORT: 21-034

FROM: Corporate and Community Services

FILE: 854

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUND – EMERGENCY
OPERATIONS CENTRE COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT 2021

COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the submission of the grant application to the Union of B.C Municipalities' Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) under the Emergency Operations Centre and Training funding stream to a maximum of \$25,000;

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

That Council supports the RMOW Emergency Program providing overall grant management for the project if successfully funded.

REFERENCES

Appendix A – 2021 EOC and Training Program and Application Guide

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this Report is to obtain Council's endorsement of a grant application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). The proposed application for the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Communications Project 2021 is eligible for a maximum of \$25,000. In order 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.

DISCUSSION

UBCM is currently accepting grant applications to the Emergency Operations Centre and Training stream of funding. The grant program and application guide for this opportunity are included as Appendix A of this report. Through this grant program, the RMOW seeks to fund the EOC Communications Project 2021.

Background

The RMOW initiated a strategy to improve communications during large scale emergency response events by hosting a working group in 2018 to identify existing gaps in inter-agency communications.

This working group, comprised of several first response agencies, determined that the lack of a common operating radio frequency that could be utilized throughout the valley created a meaningful barrier to effective communications during large scale EOC supported events. In 2019, the RMOW was successful in securing a grant from the UBCM CEPF stream that provided funding for a new digital repeater on Whistler Peak. Along with this repeater the RMOW applied for a radio frequency that would allow inter-agency communication from EOC to site level during an emergency event.

The proposed EOC Communications Project 2021 will further support bridging this communication gap by providing 15 dual band digital/analogue hand held radios that can be used to coordinate an inter-agency response during future large scale response efforts.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Official Community Plan

This grant application aligns with the following goals, objectives and policies of Whistler's OCP:

8. Health Safety and Well Being

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.

8.7. Goal: Ensure Whistler is a safe and secure resort community.

8.7.2. Objective: Maintain a safe community through the provision of sufficient fire, rescue and emergency services.

8.7.2.12. Policy

Review and maintain the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to identify high-risk facilities or situations in the community and to plan for a coordinated emergency response.

8.7.2.13. Policy

Facilitate a centrally located, multi-agency Emergency Operations Centre.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

If the grant application is successful, the project described above will be 100% grant funded. Staff time to administer the projects will be funded through existing 2021 RMOW operating budgets.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

The Emergency Program collaborated with community stakeholders to provide input as subject matter experts in their respective fields. This included BC Communications, Whistler Fire Rescue Services, Whistler Search and Rescue as well RMOW staff.

SUMMARY

Staff is seeking Council's endorsement of the grant application for the Union of B.C Municipalities' Community Emergency Preparedness Fund which will enhance the capacity of the RMOW Emergency Program by adding 15 dual band digital/analogue hand held radios. A Council resolution indicating support for the grant application, and direction to provide overall grant management must be submitted with the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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for
Lindsay Debou
MANAGER OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES

for
Ted Battiston
GENERAL MANAGER OF CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES