



The Corporation of the District of Central Saanich

REGULAR COUNCIL REPORT

For the Regular Council meeting on Monday, May 27, 2024

Re: 2024 Emergency Operations Centre Equipment and Training Grant

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council support by resolution a \$60,000.00 joint application between The District of Central Saanich and the District of North Saanich for the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Operations Centre Training and Equipment.

PURPOSE:

To request Council support by way of resolution, for a UBCM grant application of \$60,000 for Peninsula Emergency Operations Training and Equipment Upgrades.

BACKGROUND:

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments and their residents in responding to emergencies. Funding is provided by the Province of BC and is administered by Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). The funding stream being applied for is “EOCs and Training and Supplies”.

DISCUSSION:

For the Districts of Central Saanich and The District of North Saanich to be ready to support our neighboring municipalities and our local First Nations communities, as well as respond to emergencies and disasters, this integrated training program is a part of the ongoing education process. The project scope is to continue with improvements and further enhance the District's emergency response capabilities and resiliency, building on past UBCM grant funding submissions.

Building on progress made to train and familiarize staff in the past, this project is aimed at building self-assurance and certainty in staff actions during an emergency. Through the past few years, we have found that staff are starting to be more comfortable in the District's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The municipal staff that have requested (a) opportunities to practice their new knowledge and skills through scenario specific exercises and (b) require amendments and additions to EOC supplies to support activities within the EOC.

This grant will also allow to improve interoperable communications between municipal EOCs, site support and partners with better connectivity coverage. Conduct EOC sub-regional EOC exercises and training for North Saanich and Central Saanich staff, along with our First Nation Partners and familiarize staff with each municipal EOC facilities, and ensure alignment of training, and procedures.

When running an EOC, staff personnel and members of our local first nations communities are key and being and being able to provide training & similar setups allows staff to be more at ease & a cooperative response.

This funding application focuses on building capacity within the District of Central Saanich's local EOC operations, including:

- The design and facilitation of workshops and exercises for staff and the policy group.
- To amend and update the District's Emergency Plan.
- To purchase and install communications, information technology equipment and supplies.

IMPLICATIONS:

Legislative/Policy

On November 8, 2023 the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* came into force, replacing the Emergency Program Act. This new legislation addresses new standards and best practices such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. A portion of this grant funding will be used to educate staff on these changes and how to implement them in our municipality.

Financial/ Resource

The proposed project budget is \$65,025.44 and the amount of the grant application is \$60,000.00 and if approved, the remaining amount will be funded through both the District of Central Saanich and North Saanich's Emergency Program operational budgets.

First Nations

This grant will be used to support the growth and improvement of collaboration and community support with our first nation communities. Each community will be invited to participate in training activities and exercises giving them the opportunity to be represented in each municipal EOC if an activation was to occur.

CONCLUSION:

EOC readiness is a critical element to assisting our residents following an emergency. This funding will allow us to build EOC interoperability, familiarity, and experience between and with all EOCs located on the Saanich Peninsula, and that additional capacity, capability, and confidence will increase our ability to respond and recover to disasters in the District and the Peninsula

Report written and submitted by:	Lisa Banfield, Emergency Manager
Concurrence by:	Kenn Mount, Fire Chief
Concurrence by:	Troy Ziegler, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix A: 2024 Emergency Operations Centre Training and Equipment Grant Application