



BOARD REPORT

TO: Chair and Directors

SUBJECT: 2024 Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Grant Application

DESCRIPTION: Report from Sean Coubrough, Manager, Protective Services (Regional Fire Chief), dated November 7, 2024. A grant application for fire department equipment.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: The Board empower the authorized signatories to submit an application to the 2024 Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training grant for up to \$520,000 for firefighting equipment for the CSR Ds thirteen fire departments.

Corporate Vote Unweighted Majority

SUMMARY:

The Community and Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) administered by UBCM for Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training grant provides up to \$40,000 per fire department to assist small rural fire departments meet the constantly evolving training and equipment needs. The grant application was submitted prior to the October 18, 2024 deadline, however a resolution from the Board supporting the project and overall grant management is required as part of the application submission.

BACKGROUND:

The Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSR D) currently oversees thirteen volunteer/paid-on-call (POC) fire departments in our rural areas funded through eight individual budgets. All CSR D fire departments are declared level of service of Interior Operations as per the requirements of the BC Office of the Fire Commissioner.

The intent of this grant funding stream is to build the resiliency of volunteer (POC) and composite fire departments in preparing for and responding to emergencies through the purchase of new equipment and to facilitate the delivery of training. Ongoing operational costs and the purchase of major fire apparatus are not eligible for this grant.

The CSR D has developed a regional fire service where all thirteen departments are integrated with the same training program, operational guidelines, response criteria and equipment. A single application for this grant allows us to continue to ensure interoperability and uniformity amongst the departments and may provide additional benefits in purchasing power resulting from a decrease in costs for the quantity we require. The primary focus of the grant funding will be on the health and safety of our firefighters.

Purchase and install turnout gear extractors

Our fire departments are currently using consumer-grade residential washing machines to wash soiled and contaminated turnout gear. This does not meet National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) guidelines for the cleaning of turnout gear. Turnout gear extractors are designed to remove most

contaminants from turnout gear, reducing our firefighter's exposure increasing the protection to the health and safety of our firefighters.

Purchase multi-gas detectors and calibration stations

Our current gas detectors are old, outdated, cannot be calibrated in-house and in many cases provide inaccurate readings.

Purchase wildland firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE)

The 2022 CEPF grant funding CSRD Fire Services received was used in part to purchase wildland firefighting shirts, pants and boots for roughly 350 firefighters. The purchase of additional PPE is required to outfit new members and to replace damaged and worn-out gear.

Purchase of handheld portable radios

Each fire hall currently has a limited number of handheld radios. Many are damaged, and some have limited radio frequency storage capabilities. The new radios will include additional storage for frequencies required for interoperability during multi-agency responses including wildfires and will supplement each hall with enough radios for all members operating at an emergency scene.

POLICY:

The conditions for the grant application requires a resolution from the Board indicating support of the project and overall grant management. [CSRD Delegation Bylaw 5877, 2024](#) requires Board approval for grant applications in excess of \$500,000. All equipment will be purchased in accordance with [Policy F-32, CSRD Procurement of Goods and Services](#).

FINANCIAL:

The CEPF program grant provides 100% program funding for eligible costs. The CSRD is prepared to provide in-house staff contributions to manage the grant if successful.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A copy of the Board resolution will be provided to UBCM to be included with the CSRDs Community and Emergency Preparedness Fund Grant application.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

That the Board endorse the staff recommendation.

BOARD'S OPTIONS:

1. *Endorse the Recommendation(s).*
2. *Deny the Recommendation(s).*
3. *Defer.*
4. *Any other action deemed appropriate by the Board.*

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2024-11-21_Board_CPS_2024_Community_Emergency_Preparedness_Fund_Grant_Application.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Nov 14, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

No Signature - Task assigned to Derek Sutherland was completed by assistant Crystal Robichaud

Derek Sutherland

No Signature - Task assigned to Jodi Pierce was completed by delegate Sheena Haines

Jodi Pierce

No Signature - Task assigned to Jennifer Sham was completed by assistant Crystal Robichaud

Jennifer Sham



John MacLean