

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: J. Zaffino, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: February 20, 2025

RE: Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Operations Center Equipment & Training 2025

Administrative Recommendation:

THAT the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen submit a joint application under the 2025 UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Operations Centre Equipment & Training Grant for \$200,000 and manage the grant on behalf of the District of Summerland, Town of Osoyoos, Town of Oliver, and Village of Keremeos.

Purpose:

To secure Provincial funding for regional Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) to enhance regional capacity to respond to emergencies and disasters.

Business Plan Objective: *(Tie to current RDOS Business Plan)*

Objective 4.2 – Support Protective Services

Background:

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) administers the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) – Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Equipment & Training Grant to assist eligible applicants in acquiring equipment and supplies to establish, maintain, or enhance EOCs. The grant also supports capacity-building initiatives such as training, exercises, and the engagement of contractors to strengthen emergency response capabilities.

The Regional District has been a successful recipient of this grant in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024, often in collaboration with municipal and First Nations partners. These funds have been instrumental in procuring essential resources and technology upgrades for regional EOCs, including the RDOS Mobile EOC Trailer and Mobile Command Centre, as well as facilitating comprehensive training and exercises for emergency management personnel across the region.

Analysis:

The proposed grant will provide significant enhancements to regional emergency preparedness by addressing key operational needs. This funding will bolster responder efficacy and safety,

particularly in rural and remote areas, and improve inter-agency collaboration during large-scale emergencies requiring a unified response across multiple jurisdictions.

The grant will support critical investments in supplies, equipment, training, and personnel, ensuring a well-equipped and coordinated response to emergencies. The key deliverables include:

1. Enhancement of EOC Capabilities

- The procurement of smart board displays will improve situational awareness and coordination within the EOC.
- GIS tools, Rapid Damage Assessment kits, and Responder Kits will provide essential resources for remote operations, on-site safety, and communication reliability.

2. Strengthening Training and Response Readiness

- Dedicated funds for regional training exercises will enhance emergency response capacity.
- Facility rentals, food, refreshments, and travel expenses will be covered to ensure accessibility and participation.

3. Expansion of Emergency Management Personnel

- The addition of a Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) position will address the increasing workload within the RDOS Protective Services team.
- This role will focus on enhancing response operations, project coordination, and administrative support to improve overall efficiency.

This grant presents a strategic opportunity to improve emergency response effectiveness through targeted investments in technology, training, and personnel. By securing these resources, RDOS will enhance its capacity to mitigate and manage emergencies, ultimately strengthening regional resilience.

Financial Implications:

The project is fully grant-funded and does not require any financial contribution from the RDOS Board.

Alternatives:

The RDOS Board may choose not to support this grant application.

Communication Strategy:

Upon approval by the Board and successful receipt of funding, the RDOS will issue a formal information release through its website and social media platforms to announce the achievement.

Respectfully submitted:

"Shane Houlihan"

S. Houlihan, Emergency Program Coordinator

Endorsed by:

"Deborah Jones-Middleton"

D. Jones-Middleton, Senior Manager of
Protective Services