

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9 | www.princegeorge.ca

DATE: February 4, 2022

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety

SUBJECT: UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund:
Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) – Grant Application

ATTACHMENT(S): None

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council SUPPORTS the City submitting a grant application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund –Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to develop and deliver a Public Emergency Communications system, with an Emergency Awareness & Personal Preparedness campaign in the community; and AUTHORIZES the City's Financial Officer and Director of Public Safety to sign the grant application and subsequent contract documents should grant approval be received.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek a City Council resolution in support of a UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Operations Centre grant (CEPF grant) to develop and deliver a Public Emergency Communications system, with an Emergency Awareness & Personal Preparedness campaign in the community. The City of Prince George sought grants through this funding stream in three previous years (2018, 2019, and 2020) that supported EOC training and emergency exercises; procured health and safety and computer equipment for use by both the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and Reception Centre to streamline and modernize processes during an evacuation event; and, to outfit the permanent EOC location at Fire Hall #1.

In 2021 a large number of emergency events held significant media focus throughout the province of BC; and it is broadly recognized by Emergency Management practitioners that there is both a great need, and increased interest by the public for information and communication regarding emergency preparedness and during emergency events. The City of Prince George's CEPF grant application will focus on development, promotion and presentation of a community wide public emergency communications system and a public emergency awareness and preparedness program to include:

- Establishment of a public emergency communications system and a public emergency preparedness program

- Development of promotional plan and materials (social media, brochures, signage, advertising, displays)
- Emergency Management staff availability for presentations to community groups, schools and other interested parties
- Where possible, collaborate with local and provincial government contacts, first nations and other service groups to ensure maximum reach and cross promotion of programs like FireSmart, PreparedBC, Emergency Evacuation Routes and Public Notification Systems

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

This item assists in meeting the 'Social Development' section goal areas of *Safe Environment, Clear Identity and Pride, Supportive and Engaged Community*, and the 'City Government' goals of *Organizational Excellence and Effective Governance*. *Emergency Preparedness* is also one of Council's three overarching strategic themes.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Operations Centre Grant supports local governments by supporting the establishment of public emergency communications systems or programs. It is part of a larger funding program 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 the Union of BC Municipalities.

This grant will support the City's implementation of a public notification system (to be supported annually through the Emergency Programs Operational Budget) and will ensure the promotion and delivery of that system to ensure community preparedness, and the availability of communication channels to meet the essential needs of the EOC for future large scale emergency and evacuation events.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety

PREPARED BY: Tanya Spooner, Emergency Programs Coordinator

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting date: February 28, 2022