

THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF WHITE ROCK
CORPORATE REPORT



DATE: January 30, 2023

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: John Stech, Manager, Community Recreation

SUBJECT: UBCM Grant Application for ESS Modernization

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council endorse the City of White Rock's UBCM Emergency Support Services 2023 Grant Application.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of White Rock's Recreation & Culture Department leads the function of Emergency Support Services (ESS).

For the city to move away from a paper-based intake to a digital process for a more efficient and fluid operation when setting up and managing the city's ESS reception centres, the purchase of current equipment is necessary. As well, the city needs to train new department staff in ESS duties in the event of a call-out.

The purpose of this report is to seek a Council resolution indicating endorsement for the City of White Rock's UBCM Emergency Support Services 2023 Grant application.

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Emergency Support Services (ESS) provide short-term basic support to people impacted by disasters. These can range from multi-family complex fires, where occupants are displaced, to large-scale natural disasters such as an earthquake or flood. The Recreation & Culture Department works closely with the city's Fire Rescue Department to support the city's emergency operations. The role of ESS also includes involving local non-profit organizations and businesses, as required.

When a disaster happens, a reception centre is set up by Recreation and Culture staff who are trained in all aspects of ESS – from food and hotel provisions to documentation completion for provincial government support.

Currently, the City of White Rock is using a paper-based system at its reception centres. It is critical that the city moves to using the online program provided by the province. In order to do that, the city needs to have the supporting equipment, as well as the training, in place. These services are vital to a community during emergencies and disasters and have been utilized recently over the years for fires and floods.

A successful UBCM grant will allow the city to upgrade to a digital processes for increased efficiency and better coordination between service providers and other stakeholders. The upgrade to digital transformation will support the city's Emergency Response Plan and ultimately lead to better support for individuals receiving emergency services.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The grant application is seeking \$30,000 in funding which will cover the new equipment required and the training exercises needed for staff. The city is not required to provide any matching funds to secure this grant.

Without this grant, the city will be faced with having to cover the costs for this electronic equipment purchase and training and the costs will also be included in the 2023 City Financial Plan Budget.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS

The City's Fire Rescue Department support this application and work closely with the Recreation & Culture Department staff on ESS matters.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Safety is a key pillar of community life.

OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES

The following options is available for Council's consideration:

1. Not endorse the application for a UBCM Emergency Support Services 2023 Grant.

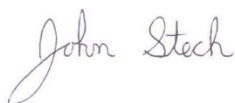
Staff do not recommend this option as the city would have to find an alternate funding source to upgrade ESS to electronic equipment and to provide staff training, which is needed.

CONCLUSION

Emergency Support Services (ESS) provide short-term basic support to people impacted by disasters. The Recreation & Culture Department staff works closely with the City's Fire Rescue Department staff to support the City's Emergency Operations when a disaster occurs, and it is necessary for a reception centre to be set up and operating. In order to provide information and support to residents impacted by a disaster, staff need to be trained and the city needs to do move away from an antiquated paper-based system to a current digital process.

The purpose of this report is to seek a Council resolution indicating endorsement for the city's UBCM Emergency Support Services 2023 Grant application to upgrade equipment and provide staff training to better provide emergency support services.

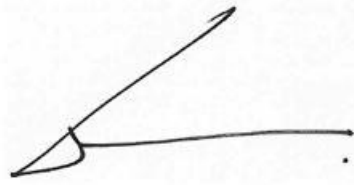
Respectfully submitted,



John Stech
Manager, Community Recreation, Recreation & Culture

Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer

I concur with the recommendation of this corporate report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes. The signature starts with a small loop on the left, followed by a long, sweeping upward stroke that curves back down to meet a horizontal line extending to the right. There is a small dot at the end of the horizontal line.

Guillermo Ferrero
Chief Administrative Officer