

Report

Date	November 19, 2025	File:
Subject	Emergency Management Cowichan Grant Applications to the Union of BC Municipalities	

PURPOSE

To seek Council's approval to support the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) in applying for grants through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), specifically under the Emergency Support Services and Emergency Operations Centre funding streams.

BACKGROUND

In 2022, local authorities agreed to a regional approach to emergency management grant funding requests. When feasible, Emergency Management Cowichan (EMC) applies for grants on behalf of the Cowichan Valley region. A regional approach ensures consistency and cost-effectiveness for all four municipalities and the regional district.

Similar to last year, the CVRD's EMC division has requested North Cowichan's support in applying for grants from UBCM's CEPF Emergency Support Services (ESS) and Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) streams.

DISCUSSION

Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Support Services

The intent of this funding stream is to support eligible applicants to build local capacity through the purchase of equipment and supplies required to maintain or improve their ESS program, and to enhance capacity through training and exercises.

The CVRD intends to apply for CEPF funding up to \$150,000 to increase regional ESS capacity within the local authorities with:

- Staff and volunteer recruitment, training, response supplies, and recognition events
- Mental health support kits for responders at reception centres
- Sleeping unit supplies (cots, sleeping bags) to stock centres more appropriately to populations and risk
- Reception centre supplies and equipment to support evacuee registration (cell phone charging stations and social/cultural support kits for reception centres, emergency food rations)
- Weather-resistant updates to mobile ESS units

Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Operations Centre

The intent of the CEPF EOC funding stream is to support eligible applicants to build local capacity through the purchase of equipment and supplies required to maintain or improve an EOC/Regional EOC (REOC) functionality and to enhance EOC/REOC capacity through training and exercises.

The CVRD intends to apply for EOC grant program funding up to \$150,000 to increase the REOC capacity with:

- 72-hour non-perishable food supplies for REOC locations
- Engaging a qualified GIS consultant/trainer to review planning section procedures and processes around geospatial data and software; configure customized mapping templates and dashboards aligned with local hazard, asset, and infrastructure data, and deliver hands-on training to REOC staff
- Minor equipment and supplies (sat phone, digital white boards, mobile shredders, workstation peripherals, lockable storage units, signage, vests, dollies, mobile charging centres, and phone headsets)

Budgets and summaries of these projects and initiatives are detailed in Attachment 1.

OPTIONS

(Recommended Option)

1. THAT Council support the Cowichan Valley Regional District in applying for, receiving and managing the Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund - Emergency Support Services 2026 Grant funding, up to \$150,000, on behalf of the Municipality of North Cowichan.
2. THAT Council support the Cowichan Valley Regional District in applying for, receiving, and managing the Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund - Emergency Operations Centre 2026 grant funding, up to \$150,000, on behalf of the Municipality of North Cowichan.

IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to North Cowichan. EMC CVRD staff will administer the grant, which will include project administration and financial reporting

RECOMMENDATION

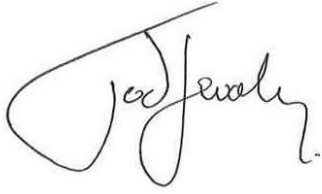
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Report prepared by:



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Executive Coordinator

Report reviewed by and approved to be forwarded to Council:



Ted Swabey
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment:

- (1) EMC 2026 Emergency Management Grants