

<b>Date</b>	October 22, 2024
<b>Author</b>	Thomas Dobbin, Assistant Fire Chief – Columbia Valley Rural Fire & Rescue
<b>Subject</b>	Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Volunteer and Composite Fire Department Equipment and Training Grant Application

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### REQUEST

Approve the submission of a joint application from RDEK Fire Departments for a UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) grant to support Baynes Lake, Edgewater, Elko, Fairmont Hot Springs, Hosmer, Jaffray, Panorama, and Windermere Fire Departments in improving their resiliency and emergency response capabilities.

### OPTIONS

1. THAT an application for a Community Emergency Preparedness Fund grant of \$308,141.70 be submitted to UBCM to acquire new and replacement equipment for operations and to enhance preparedness; and further, that the RDEK will oversee the overall management of the grant for the project.
2. THAT the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund grant application not proceed.

### RECOMMENDATION

Option 1

### BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) comprises various funding programs aimed at strengthening the resilience of local governments and their communities in responding to emergencies. This funding is provided by the Province of BC and managed by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

Eligible projects for the CEPF Volunteer & Composite Fire Department Equipment & Training Grant include those designed to standardize regional equipment, enhance shared training, and improve response capabilities. Additionally, the grant can be used to replace equipment that has reached the end of its service life.

Operational budgets often struggle to accommodate the purchase of additional equipment or props after basic training and repair needs are fulfilled. This grant presents an opportunity to acquire advanced equipment and training props for paid-on-call firefighters, thereby enhancing their safety and response capabilities.

Training and equipment plans for this grant include: driver training, wildfire resilience training, fire investigation training, turnout gear (structural and wildland), portable radios, hoses, helmets, extractors for cleaning and decontaminating gear, and a variety of other personal protective equipment (PPE).

## SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

**Financial:** Each Fire Department is eligible to apply for up to \$40,000 in grant funding. With the eight Fire Departments in this project, we are applying for \$308,141.70 in grant funding. This project will be 100% grant funded, with in-kind contributions coming from staff time.

**Previous Board Action:** The Board previously approved a grant application for \$232,322.00 under UBCM's 2023 Community Resiliency Investment Program (Volunteer and Composite Fire Department Equipment and Training Grant). This funding has been essential in enhancing the equipment of all eight fire departments, facilitating cross-training, improving response capabilities and has helped mitigate risks while building resilience in communities.

**Purchasing Policy:** All expenses will be subject to the current RDEK Purchasing Policy.

**Partnerships:** Eight Regional District Fire Departments have joined in this application, ensuring region-wide benefits.

**Process:** Should the grant application be successful, RDEK Fire Chief's with the support of the RDEK Purchaser will work together to purchase the equipment and complete the project.

### Attachments

1. 2024 CEPF RDEK Fire Department Volunteer and Composite Fire Department Equipment & Training Application.