

Committee of the Whole Report
For the Meeting of February 28, 2019

Police Department. The Township and City have both recently updated our emergency plans, communications plans, and received evacuation route planning grants (\$25,000 each), but have never conducted a joint exercise with each other and Victoria Police Department to better understand response implications when both jurisdictions are impacted. Other relevant stakeholders, including the Department of National Defense, will also be invited to participate. These exercises will be followed by after action reports that will be used to follow up on any potential gaps and strengthen our plans.

BACKGROUND

The City of Victoria recently completed three EOC exercises (seismic event, aircraft crash, and high-rise fire scenarios) involving City staff and volunteers.

The exercise evaluation surveys captured from these provide valuable information pertaining to future training requirements, overall exercise design, and a targeted path forward for the emergency management program, based on first hand feedback gathered from participants. One of the relevant recommendations was:

“That participants continue to be exposed to the City of Victoria emergency management plans and procedures through continued exercises. These exercises should continue to increase in complexity as the Emergency Control Group continues to increase their skills and capabilities in emergency response and the exercises should explore new aspects of the emergency plans.”

The opportunity to receive grant funding for the City of Victoria to participate in joint exercises with the Township of Esquimalt is perfectly in line with the upcoming evacuation route planning project and the after action report from previous exercises.

The grant application requests funding for contracting the design of two exercises to test components of Esquimalt's Emergency Response and Recovery Plan in conjunction with the City of Victoria and the Victoria Police Department. This exercise will involve two scenarios, and these will require a simulation of an evacuation of residents and result in activation of the Township's and the City's Emergency Operation Centres, activation of the Emergency Social Services volunteer teams and reception centres and include participation of our volunteer auxiliary communications services team.

Regional partners will be invited to provide input, participate, and observe as necessary with learnings and tools shared with stakeholders, including Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt, Capital Region local authorities and the Province.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

Acknowledging the constraints of a shared police force, ESS mutual aid agreements, physical geography, population fluctuations, and road networks and bridges between the Township and the City, this project will validate emergency planning assumptions for EOC activations and communications as well as evacuation planning.

This project will also enhance the awareness and preparedness among residents, engage them in neighbourhood resilience by opening reception centres, and ensure consistent public messaging, as well as EOC communications across the Township and the City.

This project will provide valuable information regarding ESS planning and capacity and Victoria Police capacity during evacuations. The project will also assist with communications planning between the Township and the City.

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

Option 1: Support the City of Victoria's application for \$25,000 in grant funds through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (Recommended).

Option 2: That Council decline the endorsement of the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund application.

2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan

Objectives are consistent with and compliment the 2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan objectives, specifically to:

- innovate and lead through internal city planning as well as community programs;
- engage and empower the community through our neighbourhood, volunteer, and education programs;
- facilitate social inclusion and community wellness by consulting with key stakeholders such as the Disability Alliance of BC (DABC) and using the functional needs framework for activities that promote community resilience; and
- Plan for emergencies including climate change short and long-term, by taking an all-hazards approach.

Impacts to Financial Plan

The current financial plan allocates funding for the emergency program, which includes preparedness, planning, and mitigation activities and projects. This project is eligible for up to \$25,000 of grant funding from UBCM, which will assist us in developing robust emergency plans, training, and exercises which will in turn strengthen our capacity to respond to emergencies and disasters in the City of Victoria. If successful, this \$25,000 would be added to the budget with offsetting funding from this grant.

Official Community Plan Consistency Statement

Emergency Management activities align with the Official Community Plan goals outlined in Section 18 – Emergency Management:

- Victoria is prepared to deal with known hazards and emerging threats, to limit the adverse impacts of events, and effectively manage emergencies;
- Victoria is able to respond rapidly and effectively to all emergencies, including events with long-term impacts and recovery times; and
- Victorians can rely on significant local sources for food, energy and materials to meet daily needs under emergency conditions.

Respectfully submitted,



Tanya Patterson
Emergency Program Coordinator



Paul Bruce
Fire Chief

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:


Date: Feb 21, 2019

List of Attachments

- Appendix A – CEPF – 2019 – EOC Application-Form-Esquimalt-Victoria-signed