



# THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON REPORT TO COUNCIL

**SUBMITTED BY:** Alan Hofsink, Deputy Chief of Operations

**COUNCIL MEETING:** REG ☒ COW ☐ I/C ☐  
**COUNCIL MEETING DATE:** October 11, 2022  
**REPORT DATE:** September 28, 2022  
**FILE:** 1855-20

**SUBJECT:** UBCM COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUND - 2022 VOLUNTEER & COMPOSITE FIRE DEPARTMENTS EQUIPMENT & TRAINING GRANT

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**PURPOSE:**

To receive Council support for a grant application for \$29,350 to the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – 2022 Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments Equipment & Training Grant.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council support the application for a \$29,350 grant for the “*UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – 2022 Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments Equipment & Training Grant*”, as attached to the report of the same title, dated September 28, 2022 and respectfully submitted by the Deputy Chief of Operations;

AND FURTHER, that Council authorize Administration to assume overall grant management should the grant application be successful.

**ALTERNATIVES & IMPLICATIONS:**

1. THAT Council not support the application for a \$29,350 grant from the “*UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – 2022 Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments Equipment & Training Grant*”, as attached to the report of the same title, dated September 28, 2022 and respectfully submitted by the Deputy Chief of Operations.

*Note: This grant requires support by Council resolution to receive funding.*

**ANALYSIS:**

**A. Committee Recommendations:**

N/A

**B. Rationale:**

1. The UBCM - Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments Equipment & Training funds are intended to enhance resiliency within volunteer and composite fire departments in preparing for and responding to emergencies.

2. The projects outlined in the attached grant support the purchase of training props and training. Having the practiced skills and regular training to perform these important tasks prior to an emergency situation builds confidence and reduces stress for front line responders. Having all firefighters in a ready and trained state improves safety and resiliency.
3. The training props include a forcible entry door prop and a non-toxic smoke generator machine. These two (2) components can be used independently or in conjunction with each other given different training scenarios.
4. The proposed "Resilient Minds" training is dedicated to building resilient fire teams and services – to educate, empower and equip firefighters with the skills and resources to grow and maintain psychological wellness.

**C. Attachments:**

1. UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – 2022 Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments Equipment & Training Grant Application.
2. Vernon Fire Rescue Services – Level of Service Policy

**D. Council's Strategic Plan 2019 – 2022 Goals/Action Items:**

1. N/A

**E. Relevant Policy/Bylaws/Resolutions:**

1. N/A

**BUDGET/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**


The proposed initiative is 100% grant funded.


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Prepared by:

Approved for submission to Council:

X   
Signer 1  
Alan Hofsink  
Deputy Chief of Operations

  
Will Pearce, CAO  
PM Date: 10 / 04 / 2022

X   
Signer 2  
Division Director

**REVIEWED WITH**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Services                | <input type="checkbox"/> Operations           | <input type="checkbox"/> Current Planning                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bylaw Compliance                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Works/Airport | <input type="checkbox"/> Long Range Planning & Sustainability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities           | <input type="checkbox"/> Building & Licensing                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCMP                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities            | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Development Services     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire & Rescue Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Services  | <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Management            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks                | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial Services     |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development & Tourism       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTEE:                        |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:                            |   |   |

G:\1600-2199 FINANCE\1855 GRANTS FROM ORG\20 Grant, by name\UBCM\Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF)\2022 CEPF - Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments Equipment & Training\220928\_Council Report Master (8).docx

**Community Emergency Preparedness Fund**  
**Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments**  
**Equipment & Training**  
**2022 Application Form**

Please complete and return the application form by **October 21, 2022**. All questions are required to be answered by typing directly in this form. If you have any questions, contact cepf@ubcm.ca or (250) 387-4470.

<b>SECTION 1: Applicant Information</b>	<b>AP</b> <small>(for administrative use only)</small>
Name of Primary Applicant: Vernon Fire Rescue Services	Date of Application: September 28, 2022
Contact Person*: Alan Hofsink	Position: Deputy Fire Chief of Operations
Phone: 250-550-3564	E-mail: ahofsink@vernon.ca

*\* Contact person must be an authorized representative of the applicant (i.e. an employee or elected official).*

<b>SECTION 2: For <u>Regional Projects Only</u></b>
<p><b>1. Identification of Partnering Applicants.</b> For all regional projects, please list all of the partnering applicants included in this application. Refer to Sections 2 and 3 in the <i>Program &amp; Application Guide</i> for eligibility.</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p><b>2. Rationale for Regional Projects.</b> Please provide a rationale for submitting a regional application and describe how this approach will support cost-efficiencies in the total grant request.</p> <p>N/A</p>

<b>SECTION 3: Project Summary</b>
<p><b>3. Project Information</b></p> <p>A. Project Title: Fire operations training props and Resilient Minds training</p> <p>B. Proposed start and end dates. Start: January 1, 2023    End: December 31, 2023</p>

#### 4. Project Cost & Grant Request:

- A. Total proposed project budget: \$29,350.00
- B. Total proposed grant request: \$29,350
- C. Have you applied for, or received funding for, this project from other sources? If yes, please indicate the source and the amount of funding received or applied for.  
No

#### 5. Project Summary. Provide a summary of your project in 150 words or less.

This project is a multifaceted project. The first portion is the purchase of a forcible entry door prop and non-toxic smoke generator. We are in the process of building a training prop within a container which we have already purchased. This prop along with the purchase of the forcible entry door and smoke generator will allow for a diversified and safe operational training program. The second portion of the training project is to provide our department and our neighbouring mutual aid departments an opportunity to attend a Resilient Minds train the trainer program. This will allow departments the ability to provide mental health training to their respective members.

### SECTION 4: Detailed Project Information

#### 6. Requirement to be Volunteer or Composite Fire Department. Please list the name and location of each eligible fire department that is included in this application, describe the composition (volunteer or composite) of each department, and state the declared level of service of each department.

Vernon Fire Rescue Services (VFRS) is a Full Service composite fire department. VFRS is dispatched to well over 4000 incidents per year with 32 career firefighters, Training Officer, Fire Prevention Officer, three Chief Officers and approximately 20 auxiliary firefighters. VFRS is a Full Service Operations response level including First Medical Response and serves a geographically challenging footprint with a population of approx 44000 citizens.

*Copies or extracts of the available evidence of declared level of service is required to be submitted with the application.*

#### 7. Operating Budget(s).

- a. Please indicate the annual operating budgets of each fire department included in this application.

Vernon Fire Rescue Services annual operating budget is \$7,244,297.00

- b. Describe the extent to which that budget enables each fire department to purchase essential equipment and/or obtain training.

VFRS is a Full Service Operation and our firefighters must be trained in a variety of skills such as fire suppression, fire prevention and inspections, auto extrication, first medical response, over the bank rescue, confined space rescue, regional haz-mat response, wildfire/interface response, and mutual-aid to neighbouring jurisdictions. This may vary from larger fire departments which may have a larger operational

budget that allows for "specialty teams". If successful with this grant, the purchase of the two props (forcible door prop & non-toxic smoke generator) will allow for more economical, flexible and consistent training off all VFRS staff. The implementation of Resilient Minds training will provide a mentally healthier workforce both in VFRS and for our surrounding mutual aid partners.

**8. Proposed Activities.** What specific activities will be undertaken as part of the proposed project? Refer to Sections 4 and 6 of the *Program & Application Guide* for eligibility.

a. Purchase of equipment.

Purchase of a forcible entry door prop and a non-toxic smoke generator machine. These two (2) components can be used independently or in conjunction with each other given different training scenarios.

b. Training. *Note: training is for fire department members only and not community members. All proposed training activities must include the name of course and the instructor and/or agency who will provide the training.*

Fire operational training would be delivered to members by VFRS Training Officer following the Province of B.C's playbook for requirements.

Resilient Minds training (train the trainer) program would be coordinated through the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA). Once this program is delivered to the trainers it will be rolled out through the trainers to their respective fire departments.

**9. Resiliency.** Describe how the proposed project will build the resiliency of volunteer and composite fire departments in preparing for and responding to emergencies.

Regular and on-going standardized training builds efficiency and resiliency in employees. The forcible entry door prop and non-toxic smoke generator will allow for all firefighters to regularly practice breaching a reusable door to safely gain entry to a smoke filled environment, perform simulated fire attack and building search. This training is difficult to replicate without the use of these props.

Resilient Minds is dedicated to building resilient fire teams and services – to educate, empower and equip fire fighters with the skills and resources to grow and maintain psychological wellness.

**10. Mental Well-Being.** Describe the extent to which proposed training will specifically address the mental wellbeing of eligible fire department staff and volunteers.

Having the practiced skills and regular training to perform these important tasks prior to an emergency situation builds confidence and reduces stress for front line responders. Having all firefighters in a ready and trained state improves safety and resiliency.

First responders had an 81% increase in mental health claims and have symptoms of psychological disorders 4X higher than the general population. In 2015, Canada saw 40 deaths by suicide in first responders.

Resilient Minds is dedicated to building resilient fire teams and services – to educate, empower and equip fire fighters with the skills and resources to grow and maintain psychological wellness. Using a peer-to-peer model of instruction, the Resilient Minds curriculum is taught by firefighters for firefighters



**11. Transferability.** Describe the extent to which the proposed project may offer transferable resources and supplies to other communities (e.g. trained staff and/or equipment that will be made available to other communities, training resources other communities will be invited to utilize, etc.).

Our fire service provides mutual aid, confined space and Haz-mat response for several surrounding areas outside of our jurisdiction. Having our firefighters able to train to gain access in a variety of situations with simulated visual obstruction (smoke) while in Class A Haz-Mat suits will allow for a better trained response team.

The Resilient Minds training (train the trainer) program will be offered to our mutual aid partners. Through this there will be an opportunity to better educate and equip multiple departments through mental health training.

**12. Partnerships.** Identify any other organizations or stakeholders you will collaborate with on the proposed project and specifically outline how you intend to work together.

Currently VFRS does not have a training facility. Our local RCMP and BC EHS rely on our VFRS to perform forcible entry regularly. We often must use forcible entry for medical response, RCMP assistance for clandestine response, and wellness checks. Having skilled practiced responders trained to safely and efficiently perform this tasks is essential.

**13. Additional Information.** Please share any other information you think may help support your submission.

Carcinogens are a very real and unfortunate reality for all firefighters. Having a training prop that will provide scenarios that does not expose firefighters to real smoke and combustion byproducts is important. Exposure to live fire training scenarios has been identified as an "unnecessary exposure" to carcinogens. The non-toxic smoke generator will eliminate these unnecessary exposures while providing realistic training scenarios.

The forcible entry door prop is an innovative way to realistically practice forcing entry through doors. It replaces the need for utilization of multiple regular doors that would be destroyed and end up in the landfill at a significant expense.

Mental health issues are the number one crisis facing first responders today. Rates of depression, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and suicides have increased over the years. The Resilient Minds train the trianor program allows for multiple resources to be deployed throughout VFRS and potentially regional departments to help mitigate and improve first responders mental health and thus there lives.

## **SECTION 5: Required Application Materials**

Only complete applications will be considered for funding. The following separate attachments are required to be submitted as part of the application.

All applicants are required to submit:

- ☒ Completed application form;
- ☒ Evidence of declared service level (e.g. bylaw, resolution); and

☒ Detailed project budget

Local government, First Nation, or improvement district applicants must submit:

☐ Council or Board resolution, Band Council Resolution or Treaty First Nation resolution, or improvement district Trustee resolution indicating support for the current proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management.

Legally incorporated society-run fire department applicants must submit:

☐ Board of Directors motion indicating support for the current proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management.

☐ Current Certificate of Good Standing.

Regional project applicants are required to submit:

☐ Resolution or motion from each partnering applicant clearly stating their approval for the primary applicant to apply for, receive, and manage the grant funding on their behalf.

#### SECTION 6: Signature

I certify that: (1) to the best of my knowledge, all information is accurate and (2) the area covered by the proposed project is within our jurisdiction (or appropriate approvals are in place).

Name: *Alan H. Smith*

Title: *Deputy Chief of Operations*

Signature: *[Signature]*

Date:

*An electronic or original signature is required.*

*Sept 29, 2022*

*\* Signatory must be an authorized representative of the applicant (i.e. an employee or elected official)*

Submit applications to:

Local Government Program Services, Union of BC Municipalities

E-mail: [cepf@ubcm.ca](mailto:cepf@ubcm.ca)





## THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

3400 – 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Vernon, B.C. V1T 5E6

Telephone: (250) 545-1361 Fax: (250) 545-4048

website: [www.vernon.ca](http://www.vernon.ca)

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### Corporate Policy

Section:	Fire Rescue Services	
Sub-Section:		
Title:	Fire Rescue Services Level of Service Policy	

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### RELATED POLICIES

Number	Title

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### APPROVALS

POLICY APPROVAL:	AMENDMENT APPROVAL:	SECTION AMENDED
Approved by: "Akbal Mund"	Amendment Approved by:	
Mayor		
Date: July 17, 2017		

## **POLICY**

The City of Vernon Fire Rescue Services Bylaw No. 5635 authorizes Vernon Fire Rescue Services to provide emergency services within the City's municipal boundary and specified contract areas. These are essential public services that make provision for responding to fire, rescue and emergency situations, life threatening emergency medical situations and the delivery of fire prevention and public education.

The City of Vernon will strive to provide Full Service Level Operations. Services provided by Vernon Fire Rescue Services are dependent on the availability of staff who have completed appropriate levels of training. Full service operational response relies on the support of off-duty members providing response capabilities 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The number of personnel and equipment available for the delivery of emergency services will determine the level of service Vernon Fire Rescue Services can provide.

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## **DEFINITIONS**

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<b>Exterior Operations</b>	the service level that includes firefighting activities restricted to the control and/or extinguishment of fire from a position external to the building or object in question, and outside any IDLH environment.
<b>Interior Operations</b>	the service level that includes firefighting activities which include entry into single family dwellings and other small structures and objects with the purpose of control and/or extinguishment of fire. This service level requires additional staffing, training, procedures and specialized protective equipment, in addition to those required for exterior operations.
<b>Full Service Operations</b>	Full Service Operations are based on advanced training and competencies included within NFPA Fire Fighter and Fire Officer standards, coupled with appropriate and number and type of apparatus. Utilizing operational guidelines, incident action plans and standardized responses, these departments are able to provide a full spectrum of fire services. Full Service involves providing firefighting for commercial properties, for example; hospitals, apartment buildings, and large commercial buildings.
<b>IDLH</b>	(Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health). A descriptor commonly used to describe incident conditions that present

immediate threat to a person's safety through inhalation or exposure (eg. Smoke, noxious vapour, superheated air).

**Service Level** means Exterior Operations, Interior Operations or Full Service Operations.

## **PROCEDURES**

The British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards identifies three service level options that fire departments may provide, which are Exterior Operations Level, Interior Operations Level and Full Service Operations Level. Further, it requires that each authority having jurisdiction must carefully examine what level of service its fire department is mandated to provide, and then meet the appropriate training and operations identified for that level. The City, as the authority having jurisdiction, is responsible for ensuring compliance with the minimum standards established by the province.

Recognizing the City's Policy statement to strive to provide Full Service Operations Level, it should be understood that emergency services may be limited to a lesser level, specifically, Interior Level Operations or Exterior Level Operations. The determination of service level is based on the availability of personnel, qualifications and specialized equipment that is available.

The Director of Vernon Fire and Emergency Services will ensure levels of service are adhered to and that the employees providing the services are competent. Council will review and approve service levels periodically. This policy is required to meet the intent of WorkSafe BC Occupational Health & Safety requirements and Office of the Fire Commissioner Fire Service training standards, pursuant to Section 3(b) of the Fire Services Act of British Columbia.

