



REPORT

To: Emergency Executive Committee

Report Number: FN-EEC-001

From: Teri Vetter, Chief Financial Officer & Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer Date: July 10, 2020

Subject: **2020 Search and Rescue Grants – Application Review**

RECOMMENDATION #1:

That the Emergency Executive Committee review the 2020 Search and Rescue Grant applications to determine which applicants are eligible for funding and should be recommended to the Regional Board for approval.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

That the Emergency Executive Committee appoint one Committee member to Chair the 2020 Search and Rescue Grant Allocation meeting; should a meeting be required, on a date to be determined.

RECOMMENDATION #3:

That the Emergency Executive Committee recommend that the Regional Board waive the Search and Rescue Grant Policy to allow the Tumbler Ridge Search and Rescue Society to carry forward \$3,500 from their remaining 2019 Search and Rescue grant allocation, for the purpose of insurance for the new Command Truck, which delivery of has been postponed due to manufacturing delays related to COVID-19.

RECOMMENDATION #4:

That the Emergency Executive Committee recommend that the Regional Board deny the Regional Grant in Aid application from the North Peace Search and Rescue Society, in the amount of \$12,394, to assist with mapping technology improvements.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Emergency Executive Committee (EEC) assist with the process of awarding Search and Rescue (SAR) grant funds through the review of the grant applications to determine eligibility, merit, and financial need, and make recommendations to the Regional Board regarding grant approval or denial.

The funding for the Search and Rescue groups is included in Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations. All other general grants in this function, with the exception of the STARS Grant, were denied at the May 7, 2020 Board Meeting. This was due to the lack of authority provided in the Supplementary Letters Patent (SLP), which were historically relied upon for these grants (SLP 23, which provides authority for the functions of Recreational Programs and Community Services).

A summary of information outlining each applicant's financial request, the intended use of funds, and notes of interest has been compiled to assist the Committee with its review of the applications.

As noted in the attached summary of applications, the Chetwynd application was incomplete; it did not include any information regarding the proposed use of the funds or any other financial reporting information. Additionally, Chetwynd has not claimed their 2019 grant of \$6,000; the deadline for claiming of the 2019 funds is September 5, 2020.

Also noted in the summary is the request from Tumbler Ridge for permission to carry forward a portion of their 2019 allocation, to be used for insurance on their new Command Truck, which has not yet been delivered due to assembly and manufacturing delays related to the COVID pandemic. The original delivery date was scheduled for summer 2020 but will not likely arrive until the fall or winter. Under the current SAR Grant Policy, applicants cannot carry forward grant allocations, and funds must be claimed within one year of ratification by the Regional Board. The 2019 SAR grant allocations were ratified on September 5, 2019. If the Committee wishes to support this request, a recommendation to the Regional Board to waive policy for this scenario would be necessary.

The Search and Rescue Grant Policy specifies that when the total amount requested is greater than the annual budget commitment, grant allocations are to be determined by EEC in collaboration with the applicants. Once determined, all grant allocations are then recommended to the Regional Board for approval.

There are four SAR organizations that operate within the region: (1) the North Peace Search and Rescue Society; (2) the South Peace Emergency Response Team; (3) the Chetwynd Search and Rescue Society; and (4) the Tumbler Ridge Search and Rescue Society - all of whom have submitted a grant application. This year, the overall amount requested from all applications equals \$68,199.53. **If all applications are accepted**, the total amount requested exceeds the annual budget commitment of \$50,000 and determines the need for an allocation meeting to be held with the applicants. The grant application from the North Peace Search and Rescue Society includes a copy of the Society's Regional Grant-in-Aid application that was referred to EEC on May 7, 2020, when the Regional Board passed the following resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED, and CARRIED

That the Regional Board refer the Regional Grant-in-Aid application received from the North Peace Search & Rescue Society, for a grant in the amount of \$12,394 to assist with mapping technology improvements, to the Emergency Executive Committee.

The additional application from the North Peace Search and Rescue for \$12,394 may be considered together with the other four applications, and as part of the overall search and rescue allocation of \$50,000. Alternatively, it could be considered as a separate grant, external to the \$50,000 SAR allocation (still within Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations). EEC could make a recommendation to the Regional Board to either deny or approve this application, which was included in the Grants to Community Organizations discussion on May 7, 2020 and referred to EEC.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Emergency Executive Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Responsive Service Delivery
- ☒ Enhance Emergency Planning and Response Capacity

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

\$50,000 is budgeted under the General Grants line item, totaling \$487,507.00 within Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations in the 2020 Financial Plan. These grants have been for the purpose of assisting search and rescue organizations in the Peace Region with funding support. Total requests in this category in 2020 total \$52,305.53.

A regional grant in aid grant application from the NP Search and Rescue in the amount of \$12,394 for mapping technology improvements was referred by the Regional Board to the Emergency Executive Committee for consideration. Should this application be considered simultaneously with the others, the applications total is \$64,699.53. There is also the \$3,500 carry over requested by Tumbler Ridge, bringing the total to \$68,199.53.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

Applicants will be notified of the Emergency Executive Committee's review of their application, as per the approval process outlined in the Policy.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None.

Attachments:

1. 2020 SAR Summary of Applications
2. Chetwynd SAR Application
3. North Peace Search and Rescue SAR Application
4. South Peace Search and Rescue SAR Application
5. Tumbler Ridge SAR Application
6. Tumbler Ridge Search and Rescue – Request to Carry over Grant Allocation
7. 2020 SAR Summary of Payables – July 14, 2020
8. Search and Rescue Grants Policy #0340-30-7
9. North Peace Search and Rescue Regional GIA application - Referred from May 7, 2020 Regional Board Meeting