



REPORT

To: Rural Budgets Administration Committee

Report Number: FN-RBAC-351

From: Financial Administration

Date: February 13, 2025

Subject: Grant Request – South Peace District Crime Prevention Association

RECOMMENDATION :

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee authorize a multi-year grant in the amount of \$2,300 per year for three years, beginning in 2025, for a total contribution of \$6,900, payable from Electoral Area D and Electoral Area E Fair Share on a 50/50 cost-share basis, to be issued to South Peace District Crime Prevention Association to support the cost of the annual subscription for the One Call Now notification system.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The South Peace District Crime Prevention Association (SPDCPA) is requesting a multi-year grant in the amount of \$2,300 each year for three years, beginning in 2025, for a total contribution of \$6,900. The SPDCPA is a registered not-for-profit organization that works closely with the Dawson Creek RCMP Detachment, acting as an “additional set of eyes and ears” to help improve public safety and prevent crime in the region. One of the key tools used by SPDCPA to carry out its mission is the One Call Now (OCN) system, an automated mass notification system and alert program that quickly fans out messages to multiple users and groups. The SPDCPA and the Dawson Creek RCMP use this system to alert their members about criminal activity, meetings, upcoming seminars and special events.

The One Call Now (OCN) notification system has been in place for several years, originally funded by the RCMP Dawson Creek Detachment. However, in September 2018, the South Peace District Crime Prevention Association (SPDCPA) was informed that the Detachment would no longer cover the cost. Since then, the SPDCPA has sought funding from the PRRD, which has consistently provided the necessary support to sustain the system.

SPDCPA has received a total of \$28,309.15 in grant funding from Electoral Area D since 2008. Please refer to the table below for a full outline of prior years’ financial contributions.

Year	Amount	Funding Source	Project
2022-2024	\$5,100	Area D Fair Share (Multi-year grant \$1,700/year)	One Call Now – Annual Subscription
2023	\$ 5,000	COVID-19 Reserve Fund	Revenue Shortfall
2022	\$ 2,000	COVID-19 Reserve Fund	Revenue Shortfall
2019-2021	\$ 4,200	Peace River Agreements, Area D (Multi-year grant 1,400/year)	One Call Now - Annual Subscription

Year	Amount	Funding Source	Project
2018	\$ 1,400	Peace River Agreements, Area D	One Call Now - Annual Subscription
2015	\$ 4,309.15	Peace River Agreements, Area D	Signage
2009	\$ 2,800	General Grants, Rural Grant-in-Aid, Area D	Operating and training costs
2008	\$ 3,500	General Grants, Rural Grant-in-Aid, Area D	Operating and training costs
Total	\$ 28,309.15		

From 2018 to 2024, the OCN system has been solely funded through Electoral Area D Fair Share. However, the SPDCPA has recently expanded its reach to include Chetwynd Rural Crime Watch, Chetwynd Citizens on Patrol, and Moberly Lake Rural Crime Watch. Additionally, the SPDCPA is making continuous efforts to engage all rural areas more actively in its crime prevention initiatives. As a result, this request is suggested to be split between Electoral Area D and Electoral Area E Fair Share to reflect the broader regional benefits.

Staff has confirmed that the increase of \$600 from the previous request (was 1,700, now 2,300) is due to the increase in subscription costs. The attached grant application includes information indicating the total cost of the annual subscription is \$ 1,664.42 in US Dollars, equating to \$2,261.61 in Canadian Dollars.

SPDCPA is a registered not-for-profit society in good standing with the *BC Societies Act*, whose primary function is to provide public safety services such as Rural Crime Watch, Citizens on Patrol, and Crime Stoppers.

This request meets the eligibility criteria as outlined in the attached Electoral Area Grant -in-Aid policy.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee authorize a multi-year grant in the amount of \$2,300 per year for three years, beginning in 2025, for a total contribution of \$6,900, payable from Electoral Area D Fair Share, to be issued to South Peace District Crime Prevention Association to support the cost of the annual subscription for the One Call Now notification system.
2. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee respectfully deny the grant application from the South Peace District Crime Prevention Association and provide no grant funding to support the cost of the annual subscription for the One Call Now notification system.
3. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- Not Applicable to Strategic Plan

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

As of December 31, 2024, the remaining balance after commitments was \$551,377.26 for Electoral Area D Fair Share and \$2,595,996.62 for Electoral Area E Fair Share.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

The applicant will be notified in writing of the Rural Budgets Administration Committee’s decision, and if grant funding is approved, will be asked to recognize the Regional District for its contribution.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

Attachments:

1. Grant Application – South Peace District Crime Prevention Association

External Links:

1. [Electoral Area Grant-in-Aid Policy #0340-69](#)