



To: Community Safety Committee

Date: January 15, 2009

From: Phyllis L. Carlyle
General Manager, Law & Community Safety

File: 09-5125-01/2008-Vol 01

Re: 2008 Joint Emergency Preparedness Program Funding

Staff Recommendation

That the report on the 2008 Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) funding from the General Manager, Law and Community Safety be received for information.

Phyllis L. Carlyle
General Manager, Law & Community Safety
(604-276-4104)

Att. 1

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

The Government of Canada established JEPP to “enhance the national capability to manage all types of emergencies and ensure a reasonably uniform emergency response and recovery capacity across Canada”. JEPP is managed at the federal level by Public Safety Canada and at the provincial level by the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP). The following categories, listed in order of priority, are eligible for JEPP funding:

- Training and Education
- Emergency Exercises
- Emergency Plans
- Telecommunications
- Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs)
- Specialized Vehicles and Specialized Equipment

This report provides an update on the status of the City’s applications for JEPP funding for 2008.

Analysis

Staff applied for JEPP funding for 2008 for the following projects:

Pandemic Plan – Engagement of a consultant to research, develop and write a Pandemic Plan.

Smiths Sabre 4000 – Hazardous materials equipment to identify unknown solids, liquids and mixtures, including narcotics, explosives, white powders and toxic industrial chemicals.

Proengin AP4C – Hazardous materials equipment to detect nerve agents, blister agents, blood agents, and vomiting agents.

Decontamination Shower – Inflatable decontamination shower to increase the capacity of the city to decontaminate first responders, public and casualties.

In April 2008, the City was advised that the Pandemic Plan project was approved, but that the status of the other projects was pending due to insufficient funding. The work on the Pandemic Plan is currently underway and anticipated to be complete in Spring 2009.

In December 2008, the Province identified surplus JEPP funds and the City received approval for the Smiths Sabre 4000, Proengin AP4C, and the decontamination shower.

Richmond Fire Rescue (RFR) provides a full service response to all hazardous materials incidents within the boundaries of Richmond; however, RFR currently has a limited ability to accurately detect chemicals and other products that might be encountered. Accurate and timely detection of all chemicals and products and the environments in which they exist is a priority to ensure appropriate containment and mitigation strategies are used in their response.

Chemical, Biological, Radiation, Nuclear, Explosive (CBRNE) incidents occur within municipalities; but to date municipalities in the Lower Mainland have not had the detection equipment to identify all of the hazards. Current response protocols require outside resources, for instance, the RCMP's Explosive Detection Unit to accurately identify those hazards. With the addition of the Smith Sabre 4000 and the Proengin AP4C detection equipment, RFR will have the ability to immediately detect and accurately identify a CBRNE hazard, thereby creating a safer environment for both first responders and the citizens of Richmond.

Additionally, in a major regional disaster RFR will be "self-reliant" in hazardous materials response and identification. This is vital as outside resources may not be available to the City or there may be a delay in their response, thus increasing the hazard to the community while there are no mitigative actions taking place.

This detection equipment will further enhance RFR's ability to deal with any incidents at the 2010 Olympics, YVR, local industrial plants, clandestine drug labs and along the major transportation corridors that pass through our community between the Vancouver waterfront and the US border.

This detection equipment is so specialized and technical in nature that Lower Mainland fire departments do not currently have either of them. Having this specialized equipment will give RFR the opportunity to initiate cost recovery measures for services provided when used within city boundaries and to deploy them to other jurisdictions via mutual aid agreements on a cost recovery basis for their use.

In a hazardous materials incident, decontamination of first responders, the public and incident casualties is a priority to lessen collateral impacts and damage. First aid treatment cannot take place for any casualties until they have been decontaminated. Until their decontamination takes place, casualties continue to be exposed to that hazard lying on their skin and clothing. Additionally decontamination prevents the spread of those hazardous materials throughout the community. Current RFR decontamination capacity includes one decontamination tent capable of a throughput of approximately 100 people per hour. JEPP funding for the purchase of this Fire Safety International decontamination shelter increases the City's ability to decontaminate casualties to 230 people per hour and increases the likelihood of their survival by reducing their exposure.

RFR responded to 125 Hazardous Material Incidents in 2008.

Funding:

	Pandemic Plan	Smith Sabre 4000	Proengin AP4C	Decon. Shelter	Total Cost
JEPP federal funding for this project	\$35,750	\$16,163	\$12,260	\$16,400	\$80,573
City funding	\$35,750	\$28,220	\$12,260	\$16,400	\$92,630
Total cost	\$71,500	\$44,383	\$24,520	\$32,800	\$173,203

Financial Impact


The City's portion of the costs of the proposed projects are already budgeted.

Conclusion

The Joint Emergency Preparedness Program provides up to 50% funding to local governments for emergency preparedness projects. The approval of these projects will result in over \$80,000 to the City to enhance its level of preparedness. The funding for the Pandemic Plan will create a contingency plan that includes joint planning with Vancouver Coastal Health for the City's response and for the continued operation of critical city functions during a pandemic. The detection and decontamination equipment will enhance the abilities of Richmond Fire Rescue to respond quickly and efficiently to hazardous materials incidents and take appropriate mitigative measures to contain the hazard and limit its impact on the community.



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DP:sc