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Item No. 4
Grants Committee
July 24, 2023

TO: Chair and Members of Grants Committee

SUBMITTED BY: **Original Signed**

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: June 30, 2023

SUBJECT: **Volunteer Search & Rescue Grants Program: Recommended Awards
Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

ORIGIN

March 31, 2023 – Application deadline for grants under Administrative Order 2014-018-ADM Respecting Grants to Volunteer Search and Rescue Organizations.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter (“HRM Charter”) S.N.S. 2008, c.39

79A(1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4) the Municipality may only spend money for municipal purposes if
(a) The expenditure is included in the Municipality’s operating budget or capital budget or is otherwise authorized by the Municipality;

...

Section 79C (1) The Council shall adopt a policy that requires the Municipality to disclose to the public the recipients of grants made by the municipality and the amount of those grants.

(2) A policy adopted under subsection (1) must include the

- (a) frequency and timing of disclosure;
- (b) content to be included in a disclosure; and
- (c) form in which the disclosure must be made.

(3) A policy adopted under subsection (1) may include any other matter that the Council considers necessary or reasonable to carry out effectively the intent and purpose of this policy.

- *Administrative Order 2014-018-ADM Respecting Grants to Volunteer Search and Rescue/EMO Organizations.*

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Grants Committee recommend Regional Council approve:

1. The award of three (3) Operating Grants as described in the Discussion section of this report for a total of \$141,300.

BACKGROUND

Volunteer search and rescue teams provide assistance to all three levels of government in the event of a missing person search, an evacuation, a natural or man-made disaster, or an evidence search. Although the four (4) organizations formally recognized by HRM are based in predominantly rural locations their search areas cover the entire region and on occasion, more than one unit may be called upon to provide volunteer personnel and equipment. Through Administrative Order 2014-018-ADM, HRM provides operating and capital grants to support such organizations.

As of the deadline, a total of three (3) applications were received for Operating Grants.

DISCUSSION

Proposed Awards

(i) Operating Grants

Operating Grants are based on an average of three years of core recurring operating expenses deemed eligible under Section 5 of the policy and exclude search call-out claims that are reimbursed by the agent of jurisdiction. The value of the operating grant is based on the average of the preceding three (3) year actuals as itemized in the applicant’s financial reporting, excluding any expenditures deemed ineligible under Section 5 of the policy.

Table 1. Proposed Operating Grants – Fiscal Year 2023/24		
Organization	Proposed Award¹	Status
Eastern Shore Ground Search & Rescue Team	\$28,872.17	Registered charity. Property owner.
Halifax Regional Search & Rescue Team	\$59,738.04	Registered charity. Property owner.
Musquodoboit Valley Ground Search & Rescue Team	\$52,689.79	Registered society. Occupant of HRM-Owned Property.
Sheet Harbour & Area Ground Search & Rescue	\$0.00	Registered society. Property owner
TOTAL	\$141,300.00	

1 The original ask was for \$144,494 but this exceeded the allocated budget by \$3,194. The proposed awards have been reduced and rounded down to meet the allocated budget for this financial year.

Actual Operating Expenses	Eastern Shore Ground Search & Rescue Team	Halifax Regional Search & Rescue Team	Musquodoboit Valley Ground Search & Rescue Team	Sheet Harbour & Area Ground Search & Rescue Team
2020/21 Fiscal	\$18,435.00	\$64,768.00	\$28,989.00	\$21,465.00
2021/22 Fiscal	\$31,570.00	\$73,119.00	\$14,432.00	\$26,922.00
2022/23 Fiscal	\$43,133.00	\$109,915.00	\$114,120.66	\$0.00
3-Year Average	\$31,046.00	\$82,601.00	\$52,514.00	\$16,129.00

** SHGSAR did not submit an application

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding for these grants for the amount of \$141,300 was approved in the 2023/2024 Operating Budget and is available from operating cost centre C801-8004 (Emergency Measures).

RISK CONSIDERATION

Low. Financial reports are submitted annually to Emergency Management/Community Safety now that they have moved from Halifax Fire & Emergency.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Provincial legislation mandates that municipalities notify the public of all grants.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ALTERNATIVES

Regional Council could refuse to grant an award, amend the value of an award, or amend any proposed terms and conditions of funding.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

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