



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 15.6.3
Halifax Regional Council
August 22, 2023

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon, Chair, Grants Committee

DATE: July 24, 2023

SUBJECT: **Volunteer Search & Rescue Grants Program: Recommended Awards Fiscal Year 2023-24**

ORIGIN

July 24, 2023 Special Meeting of Grants Committee, Item 4.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Legislative Authority is outlined in the attached staff report dated June 30, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

The Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve:

1. The award of three (3) Operating Grants as described in the Discussion section of the staff report dated June 30, 2023 for a total of \$141, 300.

BACKGROUND

The Grants Committee received a staff recommendation report dated June 30, 2023 to consider approving three operations grants for the Volunteer Search & Rescue Grants Program for the 2023-2024 fiscal year as outlined in the staff report dated June 30, 2023.

For further information refer to the attached staff report dated June 30, 2023.

DISCUSSION

The Grants Committee considered the staff report dated June 30, 2023 and approved the recommendation to Halifax Regional Council as outlined in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications are outlined in the attached staff report dated June 30, 2023.

RISK CONSIDERATION

Risk consideration is outlined in the attached staff report dated June 30, 2023.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Grants Committee is comprised of 6 citizen members and 4 Councillors. Meetings are live webcast on Halifax.ca. The agenda, reports, video, and minutes of the Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

For further information on Community Engagement refer to the attached staff report dated June 30, 2023.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmental implications are outlined in the staff report dated June 30, 2023.

ALTERNATIVES

The Grants Committee did not provide alternatives.

Alternatives are outlined in the attached staff report dated June 30, 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Staff recommendation report dated June 30, 2023.

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.

Report Prepared by: Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerk's Office 902.497.7548

P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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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.

Report Prepared by: Erica Fleck, Director of Emergency Management, Community Safety, 902.490.4213