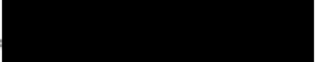


**Item No. 9.1.1**  
**Grants Committee**  
**August 9, 2021**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Grants Committee

**SUBMITTED BY:**  (Original Signed)

Ken Stuebing, Fire Chief / Executive Director

 (Original Signed)

Brad Anguish, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** August 9, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Volunteer Search & Rescue Grants Program: Recommended Awards  
Fiscal Year 2021-2022

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## **ORIGIN**

March 31, 2021 – 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 ON PAGE 2**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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

1. The award of four (4) Operating Grants as described in the Discussion section of this report for a total of \$135,127
2. A Capital Grant in the amount of \$6,173 to Halifax Regional Search and Rescue.

The combined total of the grants is \$141,300; funded from Operating Account C801-8004.

## **BACKGROUND**

Volunteer search and rescue teams provide assistance to all three levels of government in the event of a missing person search, an evacuation, natural or man-made disaster, or 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 four (4) applications were received for Operating Grants and one (1) for Capital 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 policy and exclude search call-out claims that are reimbursed by the agent of jurisdiction. The value of 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.

<b>Table 1. Proposed Operating Grants – Fiscal Year 2020/21</b>		
<b>Organization</b>	<b>Proposed Award</b>	<b>Status</b>
Eastern Shore Ground Search & Rescue Team	\$24,575	Registered charity. Property owner.
Halifax Regional Search & Rescue Team	\$67,330	Registered charity. Property owner.
Musquodoboit Valley Ground Search & Rescue Team	\$16,300	Registered society. Occupant of HRM-Owned Property.
Sheet Harbour & Area Ground Search & Rescue	\$26,922	Registered society. Property owner
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$135,127</b>	

<b>Actual Operating Expenses</b>	<b>Eastern Shore Ground Search &amp; Rescue Team</b>	<b>Halifax Regional Search &amp; Rescue Team</b>	<b>Musquodoboit Valley Ground Search &amp; Rescue Team</b>	<b>Sheet Harbour &amp; Area Ground Search &amp; Rescue Team</b>
2018/19	\$31,233*	\$62,820	\$12,560	\$30,024
2019/20	\$24,057	\$74,403	\$16,567 in 2020/21**	\$29,278
2020/21	\$18,435	\$64,768	\$28,989	\$21,465
3-Year Average	\$24,575	\$67,330	Average \$19,372; requested \$16,300	\$26,922

\* EGSAR did not submit 2018 actual expenses, therefore amount of Operating Grant awarded in 2019/20 was used in calculating 3-year average.

\*\* MVGSAR did not submit 2019 actual expenses, therefore used amount awarded in 2020/21 of \$16,567. The MVGSAR team requested an amount of \$16,300 which was less than the average calculation of 3 years of Operating Expenses equal to \$19,372.

## **(ii) Project-Specific Grants**

In 2021, one (1) application was received for the purchase of equipment. It is considered a capital grant as defined in the Administrative Order and described in Attachment 1 of this report. Applicants shall disclose any application or receipt of funds from any other government, corporate, foundation or personal donation sought or obtained in support of the capital project (Policy, Section 8). Late or incomplete applications may be deemed ineligible. (Policy, Section 9).

In 2021, the value of this capital grant request (\$6,242.47) exceeds the balance remaining in the 2021 program budget and therefore \$6,173.00 is available for this Capital Grant.

### **Halifax Regional Search and Rescue – Lakeview – Capital Grant/Equipment**

The HRSAR team applied for a grant in the amount of \$6,242.47 to fully fund the replacement and extension of the existing forced air furnace to a large classroom space. In a report dated April 9, 2002, the Municipality endorsed a plan to sell the former Lakeview School to HSAR for \$1.00. This was conditional on an MOU with the Lakeview Home Owners Association to retain access to the building for the community. Since this date, HRSAR have extensively renovated and upgraded the building at the expense of its membership. No fees are recovered from the Lakeview group. During an extensive renovation in 2013, former garage space was converted to a training classroom. At this point, funds raised did not permit replacement or extension of the existing heating system. The existing furnace is nearing the ending of its lifespan. Their grant application seeks to both replace and extend the existing forced air furnace to the large classroom space. Quotes provided.

***A capital grant in the amount of \$6,173.00 to Halifax Regional Search and Rescue is recommended to fully fund the replacement and extension of an existing forced air furnace.***

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

C801-8004 Emergency Measures: Grants 2021 Budget  
 Less Proposed Operating Grants (4)  
 Less Proposed Capital Grant (1)  
**Balance**

**\$141,300**  
 (\$135,127)  
 (\$6,173)  
**0**

### **RISK CONSIDERATION**

Low. Financial reports are submitted annually to Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

No environmental implications were identified.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

Regional Council could overturn an award, amend the value of an award; or amend any proposed terms and conditions of funding.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Capital Grants: Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria.
2. Other Municipal Assistance: Fiscal Year 2021-22

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

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### Capital Grants: Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

As stated in policy (Administrative Order 2014-018-ADM) a capital grant is:

- a non-recurring financial award towards the purchase of large equipment, the purchase of real property, construction, expansion or retrofit of a facility or amenity including in-ground infrastructure and telecommunications capacity, instrumentation or specialized safety equipment, and major structural repairs to existing amenities (Section 2.g);
- supports the purchase of real property, substantive structural repairs or expansion of an existing facility or infrastructure owned by the non-profit organization, the purchase of instrumentation, specialized or safety equipment in excess of \$500 per item, including ancillary parts or operating system (Section 4.2);

The application form provides directions to potential applicants. The evaluation criteria for capital grants requested under the grants to volunteer search and rescue program is shown below in Table 1.

<b>Table 1. Weighted Score for Capital Grant Evaluation</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Score</b>
Mandatory Standards	Legislative requirement, insurance liability, code or by-law compliance, standards required by agent of jurisdiction	0
Safety	Life safety systems, specialized large-scale rescue equipment	0
Service Capacity	Vehicle, telecommunications, computerized service enhancement	0
Real Property	Acquisition, construction, expansion, retrofit, capital improvement, environmental remediation	50
Incremental Impact	The project cannot proceed in whole or in part without municipal funding	50
		<b>100</b>

Other Municipal Assistance Fiscal 2021-22

Table 2. Municipal Assistance: Fiscal Year 2020		
Organization	Tax Relief	Other
Eastern Shore Ground Search & Rescue Team	\$3,038	
Halifax Regional Search & Rescue Team	\$6,259	
Musquodoboit Valley Ground Search & Rescue Team	Not Assessed	Less than market value lease (\$1.00/yr). Value of discounted rent not stated.
Sheet Harbour & Area Ground Search & Rescue	\$600	
	<b>\$9,897</b>	

Excludes any financial assistance awarded under the *District Capital Fund* or *District Activity Fund*.